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SHEFF V. O'NEILL



Elizabeth Horton Sheff, right, exits the State Office Building in Hartford with Keith Norton of the state's Department of Education after a news conference on an agreement that would create spaces at magnet and suburban schools for all Hartford students who want them. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

State group says 18,000 restaurant jobs at stake

Association study says federal revitalization funds need replenishing

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

About 18,000 Connecticut restaurant jobs are at stake if the Restaurant Revitalization Fund is not replenished, according to results of a study released Thursday by the Connecticut Restaurant Association.

In this state, 51% of restaurant operators who applied for the federal relief funds and were turned down say it is unlikely they will stay in business without aid. However, if the fund is replenished and they receive relief funds, 96% of restaurant owners would be able to retain or hire back employees.

"The RRF was a critical lifeline to many, but far more remain on the sidelines, desperately looking for support amidst continued economic uncertainty," said Connecticut Restaurant Association President and CEO Scott Dolch. "The decisions Congress could make in the coming weeks will be critical toward the future of the restaurants that are so proud to serve our communities."

"Restaurant recovery is paralyzed and nowhere near complete," Dolch said. "We need Congress to finish the job and fund the additional 2,066 pending state applications."

The \$28.6 billion fund, which offered grants to restaurants struggling during the pandemic, was part of the American Rescue Plan. But after a flood of 278,304 applications stating need totaling

Turn to Jobs, Page 2

GUN LAWS

Sen. Murphy: Partisan roadblock slows hope

Federal version of Ethan's Law on gun storage unlikely

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

There's little sign that Congress is ready to adopt a national version of Ethan's Law regulating gun storage, but overall the prospect for stronger gun safety laws is improving, Sen. Chris Murphy said Wednesday.

"This issue is heading in only one direction. It takes sometimes far longer than many of us are comfortable with for federal politics to catch up with public opinion, but it's a matter of when — not if — the federal government finally gets to where 80 or 90% of where the American public is," Murphy told listeners on a Facebook Live session.

Still, he conceded that even a Democratic House and Senate along with a Democratic president haven't managed to drive through stronger laws since the 2020 election.

"We are working like crazy to try to get consensus in Washington. The reality is the Senate rules stop us from passing commonsense gun legislation," he said. "What we don't have is a supermajority in the Senate, which explains why we can't get something like universal background checks passed."

Murphy, an outspoken Senate voice for stricter gun regulation, gave his update during an online forum hosted by Democratic state Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw of Avon and Rep. Tammy Exum of West Hartford.

Turn to Murphy, Page 3



Murphy

Deal would expand access to schools

Settlement near in 30-year-old Hartford racial segregation case

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

A Hartford Superior Court judge granted preliminary approval Thursday to a sweeping agreement that would create spaces at magnet and suburban schools for all Hartford students who want them and bring an end to the Sheff v. O'Neill case.

The agreement, which still requires legislative approval and a final sign-off by the court, is expected to end more than 30 years of court involvement as Connecticut officials worked to correct the racial segregation and education inequality laid bare in the Sheff v. O'Neill case.

"This settlement gives us a roadmap and a commitment, to which the state is fully committed going forward to make even more historic investments in the future of the children of Hartford, and the surrounding region," Attorney General William Tong said at the hearing.

Under the terms of the agreement, the state would add as many as 783 Open Choice seats, which allow city students to attend magnet schools and those in surrounding districts, by the 2023-24 school year — depending on demand from Hartford students.

Seats would continue to increase from 2020-21 levels in subsequent years: 1,863

Turn to Case, Page 3



Elizabeth Sheff encourages her son Milo, 10, before the start of a news conference announcing the filing of Sheff v. O'Neill in this 1989 file photo. Milo is one of the plaintiffs in the case. At right is University of Connecticut law professor John C. Brittain, one of 10 lawyers who argued the case in Superior Court. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

"This settlement gives us a roadmap and a commitment, to which the state is fully committed going forward to make even more historic investments in the future of the children of Hartford, and the surrounding region."

— Attorney General William Tong

Biden: Historic pick 'long overdue'

Search officially begins for court's first Black woman

By Colleen Long, Zeke Miller and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden strongly affirmed Thursday that he will nominate the first Black woman to the U.S. Supreme Court, declaring such historic representation is "long overdue" and promising to announce his choice by the end of February.

In a White House ceremony, Biden praised retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, who will have spent nearly 28 years on the high court by the time he leaves at the end of the term, as "a model public servant at a time of great division in this country."

And with that the search for Breyer's replacement was underway in full. Biden promised a nominee worthy of Breyer's

Turn to Biden, Page 6



With President Biden watching, Justice Stephen Breyer remarks on his impending retirement Thursday. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY**

Push for tougher penalties for selling fentanyl

Prompted by the death of a 13-year-old boy in Hartford, Senate Republicans are calling for increased penalties for selling fentanyl. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Opinion.....**News, 10**
Obits**News, 12**
Lottery.....**News, 2**
Classified**News, 11**

Puzzles .. **Connecticut, 7, 9**
Comics .. **Connecticut, 8-9**

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FROM PAGE ONE

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

State saw more than 200 deaths over the past week

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut’s weekly COVID-19 test positivity rate and number of hospitalizations dropped once again on Thursday, reflecting rapid declines in omicron cases nationwide.

“The omicron wave does seem to be subsiding,” Dr. Peter Hotez, a vaccine scientist at the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, said during a press call organized by Hartford HealthCare Thursday. “A big unknown has been whether it’s going to go down as quickly as it’s accelerated. That’s the hope.”

Even as COVID-19 hospitalizations and cases have fallen significantly in Connecticut in recent weeks, deaths — a lagging indicator of the pandemic — have continued to rise. On Thursday, the state reported more than 200 COVID-19 deaths over the past week, the second-highest number of weekly deaths since January 2021.

Cases, positivity rate

Connecticut on Thursday reported 3,036 new COVID-19 cases out of 31,201 tests administered, for a daily positivity rate of



Nine-year-old Louisa gets her second Covid vaccine at a free clinic at the Discovery Science Center in Bridgeport, in conjunction with Griffin Hospital in this December file photo. **STAN GODLEWSKI/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

9.73%. The state’s seven-day positivity rate now stands at 11.72%, the lowest it has been since late December.

Still, all eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are recording “high” levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

Connecticut reported 1,270 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 on Thursday, a decrease of 76 patients since Wednesday. Hospitalizations have not been so low since early January.

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant

■ A new sub-variant of omicron, BA.2, was first reported in the state this week. **Connecticut, Page 1**

COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the state, 54.1% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are not fully vaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Hotez noted that while omicron has proven particularly dangerous for the unvaccinated, it has also targeted those who are not fully vaccinated or whom have not received a booster shot.

“This is a three-dose vaccine and I think that the omicron variant is clearly bearing that out,” he said.

Deaths

On Thursday, Connecticut reported 225 COVID-19 deaths over the past week, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,908. Last week, the state reported 241 weekly COVID-19 deaths, the highest number of deaths per week since Jan. 2021.

COVID-19 deaths — which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks — have continued

to increase in recent weeks even as cases and hospitalizations have slowed. Unvaccinated people in Connecticut have been about 14 times as likely to die from COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The United States has now recorded 877,491 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 92.3% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 76.4% of all residents and 84.8% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 50.3% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Jobs

from Page 1

\$72,233,280,031, just 101,004 of the applicants were awarded grants — mostly on a first come, first served basis, according to the Small Business Administration.

In Connecticut, 3,369 Connecticut restaurants applied for grants totaling \$790 million. Of that, 1,303 received funding, totaling \$301,164,069.

The statistics, gleaned from a nationwide survey of 4,200 restaurateurs conducted between Jan. 16 to 18, were released as part of the National Restaurant Association’s report Monday on the effect nationwide of the surging omicron variant on all restaurants.

The omicron surge, which began in November and is reported to be

on the wane, is the latest in almost two years of a catastrophic downturn in the national and state restaurant industries, a downturn that began when the pandemic lockdown began in March 2020.

That national report also zeroed in on inadequate funding of the RRF and how restaurants that were passed over for relief are suffering more from the omicron wave than those that received the funds.

Restaurant industry trade groups and Congressional representatives have pushed for the replenishment of the fund. At the Monday news conference, National Restaurant Association spokesman Sean Kennedy said, “The timing of this is critical. Congress is facing a Feb. 18 deadline to pass a government spending bill.”

Hudson Riehle, a research

specialist with NRA, stressed that the dining industry is the nation’s second-largest private-sector employer, after health care.

“There are too many restaurants that are jeopardized right now. ... Too many jobs on the line. Failure is truly not an option,” Riehle said. “Every light for our industry is blinking red.”

The Connecticut-specific results of the survey found that 12,000 jobs statewide were saved at restaurants that received RRF funding. In other findings about the funded restaurants:

■ 97% said the grant made it more likely that they would be able to stay in business.

■ 84% said the grant helped them retain or hire back employees that would otherwise have been let go.

■ 94% said the grant helped them pay expenses or debt accumulated

since March 2020.

Seventy four percent said the grant was not sufficient to cover all of their lost sales since March 2020.

Connecticut restaurant owners also indicated the omicron surge was a significant blow to business. ■ 96% saw a decline in customer demand for on-premises dining. ■ 52% reduced hours; 34% reduced days; 27% reduced seating capacity; 9% changed to take-out and delivery only for a time. ■ 87% say business is worse now than three months ago. Only 2% say business improved.

Other statistics, which reflect the downturn from its beginning in March 2020:

■ 75% say their restaurant accumulated additional debt since March 2020.

■ 73% say their restaurant fell

behind on expenses since March 2020.

■ 80% say their restaurant is less profitable now than it was before March 2020.

■ 74% say their sales volume in 2021 was lower than it was in 2019. Only 15% reported a same-store sales increase between 2019 and 2021.

■ 79% say their restaurant’s total costs (as a percent of sales) were higher in December 2021 than they were in December 2020. Only 10% of operators reported lower costs.

■ 81% say their customer traffic in 2021 was lower than it was in 2019. Only 12% reported an increase in customer traffic between 2019 and 2021.

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BREAKING NEWS

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LOTTERY

Thursday, Jan. 27

PLAY3 DAY
9 / 3 / 4 **WB:** 4

PLAY4 DAY
7 / 1 / 9 / 1 **WB:** 8

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY’S LATE NUMBERS
PLAY3 NIGHT 3 / 2 / 0 **WB:** 6
PLAY4 NIGHT 6 / 0 / 1 / 5 **WB:** 7
CASH 5 / 9 / 16 / 17 / 25
LUCKY FOR LIFE 10 / 11 / 15 / 18 / 22 **LB:** 3
POWERBALL
4 / 11 / 38 / 49 / 69 **PB:** 16 **PP:** 3
Tonight’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.1 million
Tonight’s est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$421 million
Saturday’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$104 million

Official Approved Notice from U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut

Sexual Abuse and General Claims in The Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut Bankruptcy

The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, a/k/a the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich (“Diocese” or “Debtor”) has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation* (Bankr. D. Conn.). This notice is a short summary.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused, on or before July 15, 2021, and believes the Diocese may be responsible for the sexual abuse must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese. Sexual Abuse Claims include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, touching, inappropriate contact, or sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not.

When Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022.

If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese and against Diocese Related Entities, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. For a list of names of clergy that have been identified in connection with sexual abuse claims, go to <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Find/Accused-Clergy>. For more information on the bankruptcy case, go to <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn> or call 1-855-654-0902.

The Sexual Abuse Bar Date of March 15, 2022 is not subject to further extension, even if there is a change in the applicable statute of limitations. You should consider submitting a proof of claim even if you believe your claim may be subject to an affirmative defense such as a statute of limitations.

When Should I File a General Bar Date Claim?

If you have a non-sexual abuse claim, you will need to file so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022. More information is available at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

File a Proof of Claim.

Have questions?
Call or visit the website for more information.

If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.

<https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn> **1-855-654-0902**

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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Case

from Page 1

more by 2025-26, and 2,737 more by 2028-29. The state expects to meet the demand for Choice seats among Hartford students by 2028-29, according to the agreement. State officials would continue to assess demand every three years, beginning in 2031-32, and would add seats as necessary.

Nearly 900 Hartford students wanted to attend suburban schools last year but couldn’t because there weren’t enough seats, according to plaintiffs’ attorney Martha Stone of the Center for Children’s Advocacy.

Though the agreement would end ongoing court involvement, the state will enter a 10-year injunction requiring compliance with the outlined terms.

Stone said this provision keeps open the possibility of returning to court, should the state fall short on its agreement to meet 100% of demand or other provisions.

If the state is in compliance with the injunction after 10 years, the injunction will expire. Outside parties would have to bring an entirely new lawsuit should the state fail to meet demand after the injunction expires.

The state plans to meet the traditionally high demand for Choice seats by increasing funding to Choice magnet schools, with annual commitments set to reach \$32 million by the 2032 fiscal year.

Under the agreement, the state will further increase the financial incentives for suburban schools to accept more Hartford students through the Open Choice program.

The state also plans to create new magnet programs, or expand existing ones.

In addition to expanding Pre-K programs and adding a magnet at the Dwight-Bellizzi Dual Language Academy, the state plans to partner heavily with Goodwin University to create new quality opportunities for Hartford students.

Goodwin will create a new magnet high school focused on advanced manufacturing at its East Hartford campus, and will host a new early literacy Choice program for preschoolers in a recently renovated building in Rocky Hill.

Renovations of new magnet schools are expected to cost \$48.7 million. The agreement also provides more than \$14 million to improve extracurricular and athletic programs, which magnet schools sometimes lack, in an effort to attract a more diverse student body to Choice schools.

Gov. Ned Lamont said he wants these magnet schools to “be the best schools in the world these kids have an opportunity to take advantage of.”

“This is an opportunity for Connecticut to get it right, for Hartford to get it right, and to set an example around the rest of the state and the rest of the country,” Lamont said at a news conference Thursday.

Attorney General William Tong presented the settlement in Hartford Superior Court Thursday afternoon, joined by Stone, plaintiffs’ attorney, and Elizabeth Horton Sheff, whose son, Milo, was among the original plaintiffs.

In 1989, the Sheff v. O’Neill case, brought by a group of Hartford parents on behalf of their school-aged children, alleged Hartford students were being denied an equal education due to racial and economic segregation.

Milo Sheff, who was 10 when the case began, celebrated his 43rd birthday on Thursday. At the court hearing, Elizabeth shared that Milo is now a father and grandfather to two more Milos.

Superior Court Judge Marshall Berger granted preliminary approval, adding that the agreement “exemplifies what our system can produce.”

Berger quoted from the court opinion in the 1996 Sheff vs. O’Neill case, settled in the Connecticut Supreme Court.

The agreement and “the willingness of our citizenry to cooperate ... is exactly what Chief Justice [Ellen Ash] Peters hoped for when she said ... ‘We are confident that with energy and goodwill, appropriate remedies can be found and implemented in time to make a difference, before another generation of children suffers the consequences of a segregated public school education;’” Berger said.

In court and at a subsequent press conference, Elizabeth Horton Sheff likened the agreement to bringing her son to school on the first day of classes, “trusting a child to a school system that is going to nurture and teach and encourage my child.

“I’m giving you my baby. Please take care of my baby,” Sheff told the court.

“Unlike in other parts of the nation, the end of court oversight is not going to mean a rollback of all the gains we have made in these 30 years,” Sheff said later.

The Sheff case has been through several rulings, but no previous agreement has resulted in a state plan to meet 100% of demand for Choice seats for Hartford

Per student spending by Connecticut school districts

The 1989 case of Sheff v. O’Neill alleged the violation of the rights of Connecticut students due to educational inequality created by economic and racial segregation. Educational funding continues to vary by district today. The most recent state numbers, from 2019–20, show per pupil spending and funding source by district.

District	Federal	State Local, Other	Total	District	Federal	State Local, Other	Total
Achievement First Bridgeport	\$587	\$11,868	\$12,455	New Britain	\$892	\$13,275	\$14,168
Achievement First Hartford	\$801	\$13,020	\$13,821	New Canaan	\$241	\$21,744	\$21,985
Amistad Academy	\$661	\$11,465	\$12,126	New Fairfield	\$415	\$18,294	\$18,709
Andover	\$479	\$22,273	\$22,752	New Hartford	\$448	\$18,164	\$18,612
Ansonia	\$757	\$14,953	\$15,710	New Haven	\$1,484	\$15,444	\$16,929
ACES	\$219	\$36,675	\$36,894	New London	\$1,210	\$15,289	\$16,498
Ashford	\$564	\$19,839	\$20,404	New Milford	\$357	\$15,732	\$16,089
Avon	\$267	\$17,895	\$18,162	Newington	\$292	\$17,825	\$18,117
Barkhamsted	\$563	\$18,323	\$18,887	Newtown	\$332	\$18,885	\$19,217
Berlin	\$308	\$17,864	\$18,172	Norfolk	\$624	\$31,630	\$32,254
Bethany	\$424	\$18,707	\$19,132	North Branford	\$540	\$18,490	\$19,031
Bethel	\$335	\$15,633	\$15,968	North Canaan	\$720	\$21,430	\$22,150
Bloomfield	\$475	\$19,417	\$19,891	North Haven	\$260	\$17,287	\$17,547
Bolton	\$276	\$18,408	\$18,684	North Stonington	\$310	\$17,675	\$17,985
Booker T. Washington	\$624	\$12,467	\$13,091	Norwalk	\$504	\$18,273	\$18,777
Bozrah	\$435	\$21,604	\$22,039	Norwich	\$985	\$16,969	\$17,954
Branford	\$256	\$20,211	\$20,467	Odyssey Community	\$144	\$12,595	\$12,740
Brass City Charter	\$394	\$12,510	\$12,904	Old Saybrook	\$374	\$21,041	\$21,416
Bridgeport	\$1,020	\$13,699	\$14,718	Orange	\$317	\$17,237	\$17,553
Bristol	\$619	\$15,317	\$15,936	Oxford	\$161	\$17,840	\$18,001
Brookfield	\$295	\$16,700	\$16,995	Park City Prep	\$617	\$10,778	\$11,395
Brooklyn	\$438	\$15,130	\$15,567	Plainfield	\$484	\$15,559	\$16,043
Canaan	\$558	\$33,924	\$34,482	Plainville	\$370	\$16,540	\$16,910
Canterbury	\$430	\$17,034	\$17,464	Plymouth	\$358	\$16,676	\$17,034
Canton	\$229	\$17,491	\$17,720	Pomfret	\$415	\$18,044	\$18,459
Capital Prep Harbor	\$365	\$10,201	\$10,566	Portland	\$291	\$16,723	\$17,014
CREC	\$612	\$22,961	\$23,573	Preston	\$449	\$18,669	\$19,118
Chaplin	\$631	\$23,979	\$24,610	Putnam	\$641	\$16,717	\$17,358
Cheshire	\$269	\$17,085	\$17,354	Redding	\$304	\$25,726	\$26,030
Chester	\$453	\$24,039	\$24,492	Regional 01	\$636	\$29,264	\$29,900
Clinton	\$421	\$19,026	\$19,446	Regional 04	\$299	\$20,657	\$20,956
Colchester	\$381	\$17,386	\$17,767	Regional 05	\$238	\$19,348	\$19,586
Colebrook	\$775	\$23,905	\$24,680	Regional 06	\$277	\$19,983	\$20,260
Columbia	\$319	\$18,812	\$19,132	Regional 07	\$249	\$19,940	\$20,189
Common Ground High	\$834	\$15,546	\$16,379	Regional 08	\$263	\$18,314	\$18,577
CES	\$104	\$32,395	\$32,499	Regional 09	\$243	\$23,021	\$23,264
Cornwall	\$826	\$31,981	\$32,807	Regional 10	\$241	\$16,693	\$16,934
Coventry	\$314	\$16,230	\$16,544	Regional 11	\$669	\$23,995	\$24,664
Cromwell	\$290	\$15,300	\$15,590	Regional 12	\$522	\$27,340	\$27,862
Danbury	\$511	\$12,622	\$13,132	Regional 13	\$293	\$22,361	\$22,654
Darien	\$242	\$21,563	\$21,805	Regional 14	\$306	\$20,955	\$21,262
Deep River	\$449	\$20,861	\$21,310	Regional 15	\$302	\$19,220	\$19,521
Derby	\$832	\$17,712	\$18,544	Regional 16	\$266	\$17,176	\$17,443
East Granby	\$188	\$20,005	\$20,193	Regional 17	\$271	\$20,074	\$20,345
East Haddam	\$233	\$20,761	\$20,994	Regional 18	\$265	\$22,632	\$22,897
East Hampton	\$233	\$16,986	\$17,219	Regional 19	\$344	\$19,337	\$19,681
East Hartford	\$897	\$13,795	\$14,692	Ridgefield	\$223	\$20,796	\$21,019
East Haven	\$531	\$15,816	\$16,348	Rocky Hill	\$342	\$16,016	\$16,358
East Lyme	\$299	\$17,754	\$18,053	Salem	\$330	\$16,779	\$17,109
East Windsor	\$8	\$21,227	\$21,235	Salisbury	\$570	\$24,526	\$25,096
EASTCONN	\$304	\$38,993	\$39,298	Scotland	\$480	\$21,682	\$22,162
Eastford	\$367	\$20,160	\$20,527	Seymour	\$403	\$15,553	\$15,956
Easton	\$273	\$18,819	\$19,091	Sharon	\$1,292	\$5,443	\$46,735
EdAdvance	\$9,959	\$33,512	\$43,471	Shelton	\$307	\$15,466	\$15,773
Ellington	\$208	\$14,848	\$15,056	Sherman	\$385	\$22,623	\$23,008
Elm City College Prep	\$587	\$14,199	\$14,786	Side By Side Charter	\$276	\$12,270	\$12,546
Elm City Montessori	\$210	\$15,394	\$15,603	Simsbury	\$322	\$17,670	\$17,992
Enfield	\$615	\$15,445	\$16,061	Somers	\$282	\$17,513	\$17,794
Essex	\$292	\$21,356	\$21,649	South Windsor	\$206	\$16,395	\$16,601
Explorations	\$788	\$18,217	\$19,005	Southington	\$333	\$15,373	\$15,706
Fairfield	\$271	\$19,325	\$19,596	Sprague	\$388	\$15,990	\$16,378
Farmington	\$267	\$17,283	\$17,551	Stafford	\$561	\$19,009	\$19,570
Franklin	\$384	\$19,080	\$19,464	Stamford	\$506	\$18,283	\$18,789
Glastonbury	\$304	\$18,162	\$18,466	Stamford Academy	\$1,867	\$19,665	\$21,533
Granby	\$281	\$16,746	\$17,027	Stamford Excellence	\$471	\$9,914	\$10,385
Great Oaks Charter	\$2,201	\$13,239	\$15,439	Sterling	\$432	\$15,757	\$16,189
Greenwich	\$394	\$22,251	\$22,645	Stonington	\$484	\$19,154	\$19,638
Griswold	\$555	\$15,390	\$15,945	Stratford	\$458	\$16,512	\$16,970
Groton	\$471	\$16,597	\$17,068	Suffield	\$394	\$16,974	\$17,369
Guilford	\$287	\$18,837	\$19,123	The Bridge Academy	\$547	\$12,512	\$13,058
Hamden	\$496	\$19,676	\$20,172	Thomaston	\$371	\$16,351	\$16,721
Hampton	\$731	\$25,076	\$25,807	Thompson	\$586	\$19,225	\$19,811
Hartford	\$949	\$16,548	\$17,496	Tolland	\$257	\$16,769	\$17,026
Hartland	\$403	\$22,218	\$22,620	Torrington	\$551	\$18,049	\$18,600
Hebron	\$237	\$17,394	\$17,631	Trumbull	\$359	\$16,594	\$16,953
Highville Charter	\$373	\$10,011	\$10,385	Union	\$591	\$24,607	\$25,198
Integrated Day Charter	\$419	\$11,791	\$12,210	Vernon	\$509	\$16,497	\$17,007
Inter School for Arts and Comm	\$489	\$14,104	\$14,593	Voluntown	\$404	\$19,130	\$19,534
Jumoke Academy	\$508	\$12,795	\$13,303	Wallingford	\$280	\$18,644	\$18,924
Kent	\$641	\$26,739	\$27,381	Waterbury	\$1,041	\$14,233	\$15,274
Killingly	\$466	\$17,012	\$17,478	Waterford	\$363	\$19,096	\$19,458
Learn	\$707	\$12,906	\$13,613	Watertown	\$359	\$16,619	\$16,978
Lebanon	\$316	\$19,790	\$20,106	West Hartford	\$372	\$17,493	\$17,865
Ledyard	\$318	\$15,124	\$15,442	West Haven	\$700	\$14,696	\$15,396
Lisbon	\$321	\$16,261	\$16,582	Westbrook	\$374	\$26,691	\$27,065
Litchfield	\$538	\$20,898	\$21,435	Weston	\$254	\$23,338	\$23,592
Madison	\$291	\$21,520	\$21,811	Westport	\$253	\$22,537	\$22,790
Manchester	\$668	\$16,504	\$17,172	Wethersfield	\$284	\$16,471	\$16,755
Mansfield	\$467	\$21,037	\$21,503	Willington	\$548	\$19,411	\$19,959
Marlborough	\$420	\$16,653	\$17,072	Wilton	\$388	\$21,846	\$22,234
Meriden	\$673	\$13,368	\$14,041	Winchester	\$495	\$20,738	\$21,233
Middletown	\$635	\$19,012	\$19,648	Windham	\$1,356	\$16,569	\$17,925
Milford	\$391	\$20,567	\$20,957	Windsor	\$436	\$18,121	\$18,557
Monroe	\$268	\$18,066	\$18,334	Windsor Locks	\$405	\$20,153	\$20,558
Montville	\$435	\$16,942	\$17,377	Wolcott	\$421	\$15,228	\$15,649
Naugatuck	\$835	\$14,760	\$15,595	Woodbridge	\$281	\$17,629	\$17,911
New Beginnings Inc	\$535	\$12,970	\$13,505	Woodstock	\$550	\$15,125	\$15,676

Data from the Connecticut State Department of Education

students. An initial 1995 ruling found the state hadn’t created educational inequity, and thus was not responsible for correcting it.

An appeal to the state Supreme Court in 1996 overturned the ruling and found the state has an obligation to ensure students’ constitutional right to an equal education and that districting by town impaired that.

The court directed the legislature and

executive branch to implement remedial measures. Since then, the parties in the case have entered into a series of agreements, which have established dozens of Hartford-area magnet schools and the Open Choice program, which allows Hartford students to attend suburban schools.

The most recent settlement came in 2020, a two-year agreement that pledged to add more than 1,000 magnet school seats

and improved the school choice lottery. The agreement only resulted in about 200 new seats, according to Tong’s office.

That agreement gave plaintiffs and the state until June 2022 to develop a long-term plan to guarantee access to equal and quality education for all Hartford students.

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Murphy

from Page 1

The session on gun violence came amidst a rising number of shootings — and fatal shootings — across the country. The nonprofit Gun Violence Archive reported that a record 44,881 Americans died in shootings last year, including homicides, suicides, accidents, self-defense cases and police-involved gunfire.

DeGraw and Exum hosted speakers from several Connecticut organizations trying to reducing the number of shootings, including Moms Demand Action, Mothers United Against Violence and CT Against Gun Violence.

They said that even though Connecticut has one of the lowest gun violence rates in the country, it’s still bad. Nearly 200 Connecticut people were shot to death in

2019, according to the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence.

And Connecticut’s cities — like those across the country — have been plagued with more shootings than ever during the pandemic.

“We need to be talking about the root causes of gun violence. We’ve seen a dramatic increase in gun violence — 11 percent this year, 17 percent last year,” said Jeremy Stein, executive director of CT Against Gun Violence.

“New Haven has seen a 41 percent increase this year, a 70% increase last year, so we’re looking at over a 100 percent increase from pre-pandemic time,” Stein said. “We need to concentrate on the demand side for guns, we need to start investing in communities.”

Stein said the state needs to spend more on violence prevention, identification of high-risk youth and adults, and aid

to families that have been victimized by shootings.

“It’s getting worse not better — 2020 and 2021 have been amongst the most deadly years in our lifetime when it comes to gun violence,” Murphy said. “There’s just a straight line between the number of guns that flood our communities and the exposure to gun violence.”

Some commenters on DeGraw’s Facebook page said the forum should have included Second Amendment advocacy groups, and complained that law-abiding gun owners are being scapegoated.

DeGraw said the session wasn’t about outlawing guns, and Murphy maintained that it’s inaccurate to equate stronger gun regulation with an attack on run rights.

“I’m a believer in the Second Amendment, I have no problem with people buying weapons to protect themselves, to hunt, to collect,” he said. “I just think there

are some weapons that are so dangerous they should remain in the hands of the military, and that I think that everybody should have to prove that you’re responsible enough to own a weapon.”

Connecticut in 2019 passed Ethan’s Law, which requires that loaded or unloaded guns be safely locked if they’d be available to someone under 18.

The state’s Congressional delegation promised last winter to push for a federal version, but Murphy said the prospects are poor right now.

“It is still very difficult to get Republican support — we don’t right now have any Republicans that are willing to support it,” he said. “It appears to be the kind of thing that could get bipartisan support in Washington because it’s not about regulating the purchase of firearms. But for whatever reason, Republicans have not been willing to entertain support.”

Insanity defense sought in shooting

New lawsuit alleges negligence by Mich. school, boy's parents

By Mike Householder and Corey Williams
Associated Press

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — A teenager charged with killing four students at a Michigan high school will pursue an insanity defense, his lawyers said in a notice filed Thursday as he, his parents and school officials faced a new lawsuit over the attack at Oxford High School.

The notice, listed in a summary of case filings available online, should lead to mental health exams of 15-year-old Ethan Crumbley, who is charged as an adult with murder and other crimes for the shooting, which also wounded six other students and a teacher. Experts will consider whether the teen understood the wrongfulness of his conduct on the day of the shooting.

The lawsuit, meanwhile, was announced on behalf of the parents of Tate Myre, who was killed Nov. 30, and other students who witnessed the shootings. It alleges negligence by school officials and Crumbley's parents over the attack.

"We're sad and heart-broken — our lives forever changed," William Myre said at a news conference. "Our family will never be the same. We're not doing good. All we do is walk around the house and think about Tate. We think about him every day. We sit in his room. We listen to his playlist off Spotify. We're not doing good, but we're going to find a way to get through



"Our family will never be the same," say William and Sheri Myre, whose son was killed at Oxford High School. PAUL SANCYA/AP

it together."

The lawsuit, which seeks at least \$25,000, names Oxford High School's dean of students, two counselors and three teachers as defendants. Crumbley and his parents also are named as defendants.

The Associated Press sent an email Thursday seeking comment from the school district.

The suspect's parents are accused of intentional, reckless and negligent conduct that led to the mass shooting. The Oxford High School staff and teachers are accused of gross negligence that led to the shooting by not removing the shooter from the school building

earlier.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in Oakland County Circuit Court on behalf of Tate Myre's parents, William and Sheri. Also named as plaintiffs are Chad and Meghan Gregory, whose son, Keegan, was hiding in a school bathroom with Justin Shilling when Shilling was fatally shot.

The lawsuit also was filed on behalf of Lauren Aliano, whose daughters, Sophia Kempen and Grace Kempen, were hiding in classrooms during the shooting.

Ethan Crumbley is being held in the Oakland County Jail.

The notice filed Thursday by his attorneys will lead to

exams by the state Center for Forensic Psychiatry and experts retained by the defense and the prosecutor's office. Judge Kwame Rowe could also order an exam by another expert.

"This is absolutely appropriate to do. I doubt anyone is surprised by it," said Margaret Raben, a Detroit-area defense attorney not involved in the case. "All of this is going to take time. The forensic center is jammed, jammed, jammed with work."

After the reports are in, it will be up to the judge to decide if an insanity defense can go forward, Raben said.

Under Michigan law, if someone is found not guilty

by reason of insanity, they don't walk free. They must be referred to a state psychiatric center for custody and further evaluation.

Someone who is found guilty but mentally ill still would be sentenced to prison but with recommendations that they get treatment.

School officials became concerned about Ethan Crumbley a day before the shooting, when a teacher saw him searching for ammunition on his phone. Jennifer Crumbley was contacted and subsequently told her son in a text message: "Lol. I'm not mad at you. You have to learn not to get caught," according to

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald.

The day of the shooting, a teacher found a note on Ethan Crumbley's desk and took a photo. It was a drawing of a gun pointing at the words, "The thoughts won't stop. Help me," McDonald said in December.

The drawing also featured a person who appeared to have been shot twice and is bleeding. "My life is useless" and "The world is dead," were written.

The gun used in the shooting was bought days before by James Crumbley and their son had full access to it, according to authorities.

McDonald has said that James and Jennifer Crumbley committed "egregious" acts, from buying a gun on Black Friday and making it available to Ethan Crumbley to resisting his removal from school when they were summoned a few hours before the shooting.

James and Jennifer Crumbley later were charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Detroit-area attorney Ven Johnson, who is representing parents in the lawsuit filed Thursday, said Ethan Crumbley knew what he was doing and "clearly he was disturbed," but his parents did nothing.

In December, Jeffrey and Brandi Franz filed a pair of lawsuits in federal court and county circuit court seeking \$100 million each against the district. Their 17-year-old daughter, Riley, was shot in the neck. Her 14-year-old sister, Bella, a ninth grader, was next to her at the time she was shot.

Their lawsuit says school officials and high school staff didn't do enough to prevent the shooting and protect students.

US economy snaps back from COVID-19 recession

GDP jumped 5.7% last year, its biggest growth since 1984

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew last year at the fastest pace since Ronald Reagan's presidency, bouncing back with resilience from 2020's brief but devastating coronavirus recession.

The nation's gross domestic product — its total output of goods and services — expanded 5.7% in 2021. It was the strongest calendar-year growth since a 7.2% surge in 1984 after a previous recession. The economy ended the year by growing at an unexpectedly brisk 6.9% annual pace from October through December as businesses replenished their inventories, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

"It just goes to show that the U.S. economy has learned to adapt to the new variants and continues to produce," said Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at Standard & Poor's Global Ratings.

Squeezed by inflation and still gripped by COVID-19 caseloads, the economy is

expected to slow this year. Many economists have been downgrading their forecasts for the current January-March quarter, reflecting the impact of the omicron variant. And for all of 2022, the International Monetary Fund has forecast that the nation's GDP growth will slow to 4%.

Many U.S. businesses, especially restaurants, bars, hotels and entertainment venues, remain under pressure from the omicron variant, which has kept millions of people hunkered down at home to avoid crowds.

Consumer spending, the primary driver of the economy, may be further held back this year by the loss of government aid to households, which nurtured activity in 2020 and 2021 but has mainly expired.

What's more, the Federal Reserve made clear Wednesday that it plans to raise interest rates multiple times this year to battle the hottest inflation in nearly four decades. Those rate increases will make borrowing more expensive and perhaps slow the economy this year.

Growth last year was driven by a 7.9% surge in consumer spending and a 9.5% increase in private investment.

For the final three months of 2021, consumer spending rose at a more muted 3.3% annual pace. But private investment rocketed 32% higher, boosted by a surge in business inventories as companies stocked up to meet higher customer demand. Rising inventories, in fact, accounted for 71% of the fourth-quarter growth.

"The upside surprise came largely from a surge in inventories, and the details aren't as strong as the headline would suggest," Kathy Bostjancic, COxford Economics' chief U.S. financial economist, said in a research note.

In a statement, President Joe Biden said, "We are finally building an American economy for the 21st century, with the fastest economic growth in nearly four decades, along with the greatest year of job growth in American history."

Arising from the 2020 pandemic recession, a healthy rebound had been expected for 2021. GDP had shrunk 3.4% in 2020, the steepest full-year drop since an 11.6% plunge in 1946, when the nation was demobilizing after World War II.

The eruption of COVID-19 in March 2020 had led authorities to order lockdowns and businesses to



A worker delivers goods at a grocery store in Fairfax, Va. The economy, squeezed by inflation and still gripped by virus cases, is expected to slow this year. OLIVIER DOULIERY/GETTY-AFP

abruptly shut down or reduce hours. Employers slashed a staggering 22 million jobs. The economy sank into a deep recession.

But super-low interest rates, huge infusions of government aid — including \$1,400 checks to most households — and, eventually, the widespread rollout of vaccines revived the economy.

Many consumers regained the confidence and financial wherewithal to go out and spend again.

The resurgence in demand was so robust that it

caught businesses off guard. Many struggled to acquire enough supplies and workers to meet a swift increase in customer orders.

With many people now working remotely, shortages became especially acute for goods ordered for homes, from appliances to sporting goods to electronic equipment. And with computer chips in especially short supply, auto dealers were left desperately short of vehicles.

Factories, ports and freight yards were overwhelmed, and supply chains

became ensnarled. Inflation began to accelerate. Over the past 12 months, consumer prices soared 7% — the fastest year-over-year inflation since 1982. Food, energy and autos were among the items whose prices soared the most.

Late last year, the economy began to show signs of fatigue. Retail sales, for instance, fell 1.9% in December. And manufacturing slowed in December to its lowest level in 11 months, according to the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index.



A Ukrainian serviceman keeps an eye on the front line Thursday in the Luhansk area. VADIM GHIRDA/AP

Biden calls Russian invasion of Ukraine 'distinct possibility'

By Vladimir Isachenkov and Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The White House said President Joe Biden warned Ukraine's president Thursday that there is a "distinct possibility" Russia could take military action against Ukraine in February.

The Kremlin likewise sounded a grim note, saying it saw "little ground for optimism" in resolving the crisis after the U.S. this week

again rejected Russia's main demands.

Russian officials said dialogue was still possible to end the crisis, but Biden again offered a stark warning amid growing concerns that Russian President Vladimir Putin will give the go-ahead for a further invasion of Ukrainian territory in the not-so-distant future.

"President Biden said that there is a distinct possibility that the Russians could invade Ukraine in February," White House National

Security Council spokesperson Emily Horne said. "He has said this publicly and we have been warning about this for months."

Tensions have soared in recent weeks, as the United States and its NATO allies expressed concern that a buildup of about 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine signaled that Moscow planned to invade its former Soviet neighbor. Russia denies having any such designs — and has laid out a series of demands it

says will improve security in Europe.

But as expected, the U.S. and the Western alliance rejected any concessions on Moscow's main points Wednesday, refusing to permanently ban Ukraine from joining NATO and saying allied deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe are nonnegotiable.

The U.S. did outline areas in which some of Russia's concerns might be addressed, possibly offer-

ing a path to de-escalation. But, as it has done repeatedly for the past several weeks, Washington also warned Moscow of devastating sanctions if it invades Ukraine.

In addition to penalties targeting Russian people and key economic sectors, several senior U.S. officials said Thursday with certainty that Germany would not allow a newly constructed gas pipeline to begin operations in the event of an incursion.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Tenn. school district bans graphic novel about the Holocaust

From news services

ATHENS, Tenn. — A Tennessee school district has voted to ban a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust due to “inappropriate language” and an illustration of a nude woman, according to minutes from a board meeting.

The McMinn County School Board decided Jan. 10 to remove “Maus” from its curriculum, news outlets reported.

Art Spiegelman won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992 for the work that tells the story of his Jewish parents living in 1940s Poland and depicts him interviewing his father about his experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

Spiegelman told CNBC he was “baffled” by the school board’s decision and called the action “Orwellian.”

The decision comes as conservative officials across the country have increasingly tried to limit the type of books that children are exposed to, including books that address structural racism and LGBTQ issues.

The minutes from the school board meeting indicate objections over some of the language used in “Maus.” At first, Director of Schools Lee Parkison suggested redacting it “to get rid of the eight curse words and the picture of the woman that was objected to.”

The nude woman is drawn as a mouse. In the graphic novel, Jews are drawn as mice and the Nazis are drawn as cats.

“It shows people hanging, it shows them killing kids, why does the educational system promote this kind of stuff? It is not wise or healthy,” School Board Member Tony Allman said about the book, which was part of the district’s eighth-grade English language arts curriculum.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum tweeted that “Maus has played a vital role in educating about the Holocaust through sharing detailed and personal experiences of victims and survivors.”

The Tennessee school board emphasized in the minutes that they did not object to teaching about the Holocaust but some were concerned the work was not age-appropriate.

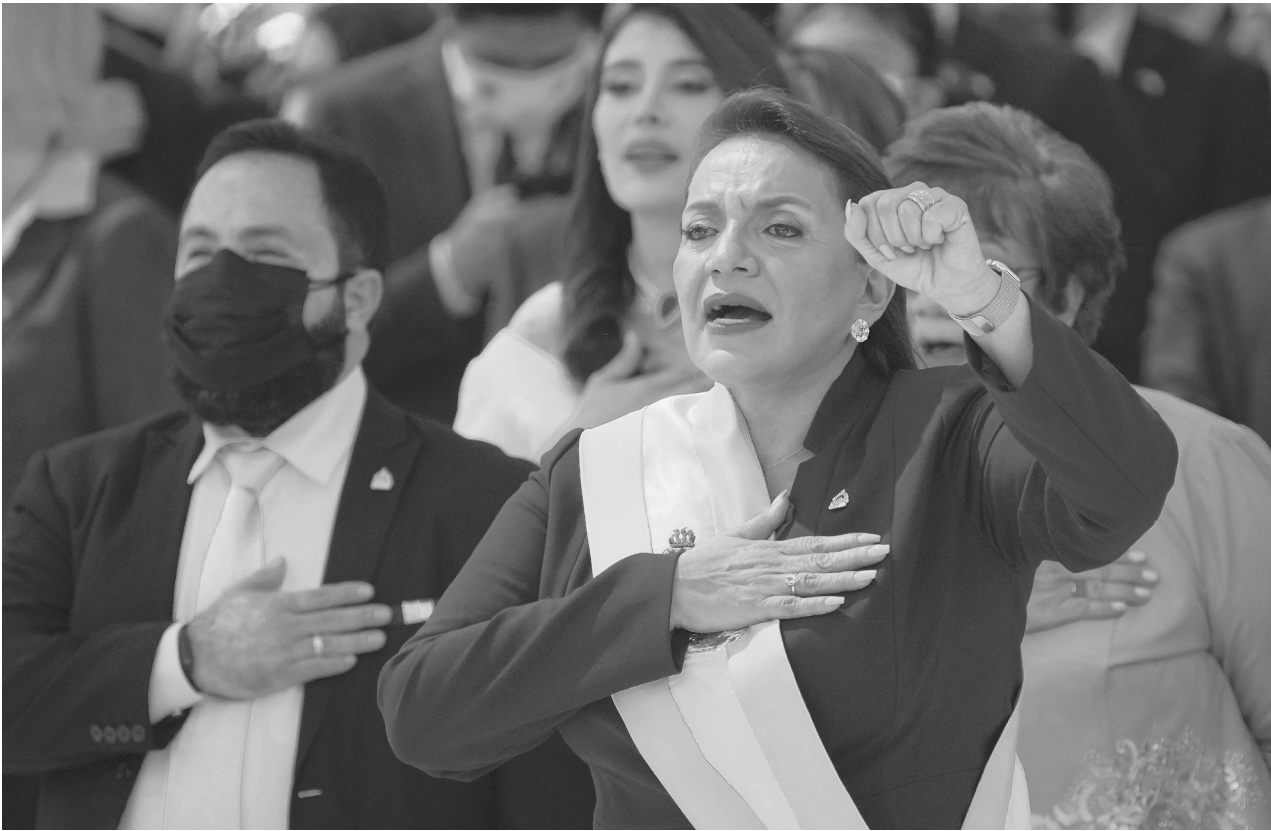
Pentagon on civilian deaths: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Thursday ordered his staff to quickly develop an “action plan” for improving how the Pentagon limits and responds to civilian casualties caused by American airstrikes.

Austin said in a memo to senior civilian and military officials that he wants the plan to reach his office within 90 days. He said it should outline steps the Pentagon will take, and the resources it will require, to implement recommendations from previous studies of the problem.

Austin acted following a wave of criticism of the Pentagon for an airstrike Aug. 29 in Kabul, Afghanistan, that it initially termed a valid attack, despite 10 civilian deaths, but later acknowledged was a mistake in which the targeted individual turned out to not to be a militant, as first claimed by U.S. Central Command and Pentagon officials.

Austin also ordered the establishment of a “civilian protection center of excellence” to institutionalize improvements in this area.

Syrian prison siege: Dozens of armed Islamic State militants remained holed up in the last occupied section of a Syrian prison, U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces said Thursday. The two sides clashed a day



Fresh start in Honduras: Xiomara Castro is inaugurated as the first female president in Honduras’ history on Thursday at a stadium in the capital of Tegucigalpa. Castro, 62, ripped the outgoing administration of Juan Orlando Hernández for leaving her a heavily indebted country that’s forced hundreds of thousands of Hondurans in recent years to migrate. **MOISES CASTILLO/AP**

after the Syrian Democratic Forces announced they had regained full control of the facility.

Fighting between the armed extremists and SDF troops left at least two Islamic extremists dead Thursday, the SDF said in a statement. It said 60 to 90 militants were hiding out in a section of the prison in Hassakeh.

The SDF claimed Wednesday that it had regained full control of the prison — a week after militants overran the facility.

It was the biggest military operation by IS since the fall of the group’s “caliphate” in 2019.

Conway memoir: A memoir by former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway is scheduled to be released May 24.

“Here’s the Deal” is billed by publisher Threshold Editions as a look beyond the headlines of the Trump administration and her family life, including her husband and prominent Trump

detractor, George Conway.

Conway’s deal for her memoir was worth seven figures, according to a publishing official with knowledge of negotiations and who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Threshold is a conservative imprint of Simon & Schuster that published Donald Trump’s campaign book “Crippled America” (later titled “Great Again”) in 2015.

Conway, 55, is a long-time Republican pollster and consultant. She left the Trump administration in August 2020 citing a need to spend time with family.

Israeli vaccine study: Boys between 12 and 15 have a small but increased risk of heart problems after receiving a second dose of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine, Israeli researchers reported Wednesday.

Myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, occurred in 1 of 12,361 boys of that age group within a week of receiving a second dose,

the study found. The cases were mild, and the side effect remains uncommon.

Still, the Israeli figure is higher than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate of 1 case per 16,129 vaccinated adolescents ages 12 to 17.

Although the new results are based only on the Pfizer vaccine, other studies have found that the incidence of myocarditis may be higher with the vaccine made by Moderna.

Myocarditis can manifest as chest pain, shortness of breath and the feeling of having a fast-beating, fluttering or pounding heart, according to the CDC.

Road safety pledge: Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is pledging to tackle rising traffic fatalities through a national strategy aimed at reducing speed, redesigning roads and enhancing car safety features.

Buttigieg said federal data being released next week will show an increase in traf-

fic fatalities through the third quarter of 2021.

Those numbers are expected to point to a sizable jump in deaths compared with the same period in 2020, adding to a half-year traffic death total of 20,160 that already was the highest half-year figure since 2006.

Buttigieg said his department is embracing a new “safe system” approach urged by auto safety advocates to bolster initiatives in several cities that seek to eliminate fatalities by taking into account more than just the behavior of drivers.

Over the next two years, Buttigieg said the department will provide guidance and \$5 billion in grants to states to spur lower speed limits and employ safer road design, better lighting and crosswalks.

Money for the grants is included in President Joe Biden’s infrastructure law, which has an additional \$4 billion in funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program.



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WORLD & NATION

Is Cawthorn an ‘insurrectionist’?

NC lawmaker’s bid for 2nd term may hinge on question

By Jonathan Weisman
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — A group of lawyers is working to disqualify from the ballot a right-wing House Republican who cheered on the U.S. Capitol rioters unless he can prove he is not an “insurrectionist,” disqualified by the Constitution from holding office, in a case with implications potentially for former President Donald Trump.

The novel challenge to the reelection bid of Rep. Madison Cawthorn of North Carolina, one of the House’s brashest supporters of Trump and the lie that the 2020 election was stolen, could set a precedent to challenge other Republicans who swore to uphold the Constitution, then encouraged the attack.

While the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol has been unsuccessful in its effort to force key members of Congress to cooperate with the inquiry, the North Carolina case has already prompted a legal discussion — one that is likely to land in court — about what constitutes an insurrection and who is an insurrectionist.

And for the first time, a lawmaker who embraced the rioters may have to answer in court.

“I don’t think we can have those persons who have engaged in acts of insurrection elected to office and serving in office in violation of their constitutional duties and oath,” said John Wallace, the lead lawyer in the case and a campaign finance and election law expert in Raleigh, North Carolina. “It should not be difficult to prove you are not an insurrectionist. It only seems to be difficult for Madison Cawthorn.”

This case revolves around the little-known third



Republican Rep. Madison Cawthorn of North Carolina is facing a novel legal challenge. COOPER NEILL/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021

section of the 14th Amendment, adopted during Reconstruction to punish members of the Confederacy who were streaming back to Washington to reclaim their elective offices.

That section declares that “no person shall” hold “any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath” to “support the Constitution,” had then “engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof.”

Cawthorn, 26, who is in his first term in Congress, has denounced the case as an egregious misreading of the 14th Amendment, but he has retained James Bopp, one of the most prominent conservative campaign lawyers in the country.

Bopp declared the matter “the most frivolous case I’ve ever seen” but allowed that what he called an “unethical” exploitation of North

Carolina law by “competent” lawyers could pose a real threat to Cawthorn — and by extension, to others labeled “insurrectionists” by liberal lawyers.

If Cawthorn is labeled an “insurrectionist,” that could have broader ramifications. Other Republican House members, such as Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, Mo Brooks of Alabama, Paul Gosar of Arizona, and Lauren Boebert of Colorado face similar accusations, but their state’s election laws present higher hurdles for challenges to their candidate qualifications. If one of their colleagues is disqualified for his role in encouraging the rioters, those hurdles might become easier to clear.

The lawyers challenging Cawthorn’s eligibility are using an amendment last invoked in 1920, when Rep. Victor Berger, an Austrian American socialist, was denied his seat representing Wisconsin after criticizing U.S. involvement in World

War I.

If nothing else, the lawyers, including two former justices of the North Carolina Supreme Court, want to depose Cawthorn as part of discovery to question his actions before, during and after the attack on the Capitol.

“There is, of course, much that we don’t know, and the statute allows discovery by deposition and the production of records,” Wallace said.

There is much that is known. Whether it makes Cawthorn an “insurrectionist” would have to be determined by North Carolina’s Board of Elections or, more likely, by the state’s courts, where the board might punt the matter.

Weeks after the 2020 election, Cawthorn told a conservative gathering to “call your congressman” to protest the results, adding, “You can lightly threaten them.” He promoted the “Save America” rally behind

the White House on Jan. 6, writing on Twitter, “the future of this Republic hinges on the actions of a solitary few,” then adding, “It’s time to fight.” At the rally, he riled the crowd from the stage with talk of election “fraud.”

He later called those jailed for storming the Capitol “political hostages” and “political prisoners” that he would like to “bust” out of prison.

“The Second Amendment was written so that we can fight against tyranny,” he would later say in Franklin, North Carolina. “If our election systems continue to be rigged and continue to be stolen, then it’s going to lead to one place, and it’s bloodshed.”

Bopp said all of that was beside the point. Section 3 of the 14th Amendment concludes with a key phrase that refers to the insurrectionist disqualification, or disability: “Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of

each House, remove such disability.” Congress did just that, he said, with the Amnesty Act of 1872 that declared that “all political disabilities imposed by the third section” of the 14th Amendment were “hereby removed from all persons whomsoever.”

Gerard Magliocca, an expert witness for the complainants and a law professor at Indiana University who has written on the constitutional section in question, said Bopp was wrong.

Congress did not discuss what would happen in the future when it debated granting amnesty to confederates in 1872, nor did it have the power to grant prospective pardons, he said. Berger, the sole officeholder denied reelection after Reconstruction because of the amendment, tried to make the same argument, but Congress rejected it.

Besides, Magliocca said, the section at issue remains in the Constitution.

Bopp also said the Constitution clearly granted each chamber of Congress — not a board of elections — the power to determine eligibility for office, an assertion that Ron Fein, legal director of Free Speech for People, a nonpartisan interest group that is participating in the challenge, dismissed.

“If he’s right, then a 9-year-old could show up with enough signatures and qualify for the ballot, because only Congress could disqualify him after the election,” Fein said.

For Cawthorn, that would be a problem beyond the spectacle of him having to answer whether he is an insurrectionist. North Carolina’s new House district map, heavily gerrymandered by the Republican Legislature, is stuck in court, and the state’s Board of Elections has frozen the candidacy qualifications case against Cawthorn until he can determine which district he intends to be a candidate in.



People on Thursday pay respects to those killed in the Holocaust at the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau in Oswiecim, Poland. BARTOSZ SIEDLIK/GETTY-APP

World remembers Holocaust amid a surge in antisemitism

By Vanessa Gera and Samuel Petrequin
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Survivors recalled their agony to a world they fear is forgetting, Israel’s parliamentary speaker wept in the German parliament and politicians warned of a resurgence of antisemitism during International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Thursday.

The day falls on the anniversary of the liberation by Soviet troops of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the most notorious of the death camps where Nazi Germany carried out its plot seeking to murder the Jewish people of Europe.

At the memorial site in Poland, which was subjected to German occupation during World War II, a small number of survivors gathered in an auditorium. Attendance at the yearly event was sharply curtailed amid Europe’s coronavirus surge.

Nazi German forces killed 1.1 million people at Auschwitz, most of them Jews.

Halina Birenbaum, a 92-year-old Polish-born

poet who lives in Israel, recalled her suffering remotely. She was 10 when the Germans invaded and occupied Poland in September 1939, and was 13 when she was taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau after being led out of the gas chamber of the Majdanek camp thanks to a malfunction.

“I saw masses of the powerful but arrogant army of Nazi Germany as they marched cruelly, victoriously, into the devastated and burning streets of Warsaw,” she recalled.

Commemorations everywhere took place amid a rise of antisemitism that gained traction during lockdowns as the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated hatred online.

German parliament speaker Baerbel Bas said the pandemic has acted “like an accelerant” to already burgeoning antisemitism. “Antisemitism is here — it isn’t just on the extreme fringe, not just among the eternally incorrigible and a few antisemitic trolls on the net,” she said. “It is a problem of our society — all of society.”

United Nations Secre-

tary-General Antonio Guterres told a virtual U.N. Holocaust remembrance ceremony that he has made tackling the roots of intolerance a priority.

“Antisemitism, virulent anti-Muslim bigotry, persecution of Christians, racism, and anti-refugee hatred are becoming normalized in a coarsening public discourse — often amplified in online echo chambers of hate,” he said.

About 6 million European Jews and millions of other people were killed by the Nazis and their collaborators. Some 1.5 million were children.

“Our country bears a special responsibility — the genocide against the European Jews is a German crime,” Bas said in the German parliament, the Bundestag.

Israel’s parliamentary speaker, Mickey Levy, broke down in tears in the Bundestag while reciting the Jewish mourner’s prayer from a prayer book that belonged to a German Jewish boy who celebrated his bar mitzvah on the eve of Kristallnacht, an outburst of anti-Jewish violence in 1938.

Biden

from Page 1

legacy and said he’d already been studying the backgrounds and writings of potential candidates.

“I’ve made no decision except one: The person I will nominate will be somebody of extraordinary qualifications, character and integrity,” he said. “And that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court. It is long overdue.”

Biden’s choice will be historic on its face: No Black woman has ever served on the high court. The decision is also notable coming at a time of national reckoning over race and gender inequality. However, the court’s 6-3 conservative majority is destined to remain intact.

Biden is using his choice to fulfill an early campaign promise. It also gives him the chance to show Black voters, who are increasingly frustrated with a president they helped to elect, that he is serious about their concerns, particularly with his voting rights legislation stalled in the Senate. It also could help drive Democratic enthusiasm amid concerns about a midterm routing in congressional races.

Biden spent his first year in office working to nominate a diverse group of judges to the federal bench and he has been reviewing possible high court candidates along the way. He has installed five Black women on federal appeals courts — where many high court justices come from — with three more nominations pending before the Senate.

As a senator, he spent years leading the Senate Judiciary Committee and so he’s quite familiar with the nomination process, having overseen six Supreme Court confirmation hearings. One person who will be central to Biden’s selection process is chief of staff Ron Klain, a former Supreme Court law clerk and chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee.

The president has already met with at least one top candidate for the nomination, Ketanji Brown Jackson, 51. She is a former Breyer clerk who worked at the U.S. Sentencing Commission and has been a federal trial court judge since 2013 in the District of Columbia. The two met when Biden interviewed her for her current post as an appeals court judge in the D.C. circuit, where she has served since last June.

Early discussions about a successor are focusing on Jackson, U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs and California Supreme Court Justice Leandra Kruger, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss White House deliberations. Jackson and Kruger have long been seen as possible nominees.

Childs, a federal judge in South Carolina, has been nominated but not yet confirmed to serve on the same circuit court. She is a favorite among some high-profile lawmakers, including Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C. Her confirmation to the federal appeals bench is expected next week.

Kruger, a graduate of Harvard and of Yale’s law school, was previously a Supreme Court clerk and has argued a dozen cases before the justices as a lawyer for the federal government.

Biden also personally interviewed a few other possible candidates, including Eunice Lee and Candace Jackson-Akiwumi. Both women have experience as criminal defense attorneys and could diversify the range of legal expertise on the high court, where many of the judges came from prosecutorial jobs or academia. Biden spoke to those two for their recent appointments to the federal bench.

In the Roosevelt Room on Thursday, Biden spoke wistfully about presiding over Breyer’s ascent to the court in 1994. He praised the justice’s legacy and highlighted Breyer’s opin-

ions on reproductive rights, health care and voting rights, calling him “sensitive and nuanced.”

Breyer, in brief remarks, praised the “miracle” of America’s constitutional democracy and issued a reminder to a nation riven by partisan discord and last year’s insurrection at the U.S. Capitol that the government “experiment” is not yet over.

“This is a complicated country,” he said, leaning onto the lectern. He added: “People have come to accept this Constitution, and they’ve come to accept the importance of a rule of law.”

Recounting a subject of frequent talks with students, the outgoing justice noted that in the nation’s earliest days, European powers doubted it could survive and during the horrors of the Civil War it appeared the United States might not make it.

“They’re looking over here and they’re saying it’s a great idea in principle, that it’ll never work,” Breyer said. “But we’ll show them it does. That’s what Washington thought, and that’s what Lincoln thought, and that’s what people still think today.”

“It’s an experiment that’s still going on,” he added, saying future generations will see if the government can live up to its promise. “They’ll determine whether the experiment still works. And of course, I’m an optimist, and I’m pretty sure it will.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he hoped Biden would not “outsource this important decision to the radical left.”

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said after Breyer’s announcement that his successor “should be an individual within the legal mainstream who can receive similar broad, bipartisan support.”

Grassley voted against Jackson’s confirmation to the D.C. appeals circuit, as well as most other Biden appellate court nominees.

WORLD & NATION

When human rights efforts go awry

Report: EU should continue training Libyans amid woes

By Renata Brito, Frank Jordans and Lorne Cook
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — A confidential European Union military report calls for continuing a controversial EU program to train and equip Libya's coast guard and navy despite growing concerns about their treatment of migrants, a mounting death toll at sea, and the continued lack of any central authority in the North African nation.

The report, circulated to EU officials this month, offers a rare look at Europe's determination to support Libya in the interception and return of tens of thousands of men, women and children to Libya, where they face insufferable abuse.

Compiled by Italian navy Rear Adm. Stefano Turchetto, head of the EU arms embargo surveillance mission, or Operation Irini, the report acknowledges the "excessive use of force" by Libyan authorities, adding that EU training is "no longer fully followed."

Hundreds of thousands of migrants hoping to reach Europe have made their way through Libya, where a lucrative trafficking and smuggling business has flourished in a country without a functioning government, fragmented for years between rival administrations in the east and west, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

The EU report acknowledges "the political stalemate" in Libya has hindered Europe's training program, noting that the country's internal divisions make it difficult to obtain political support for enforcing "proper behavioral standards ... compliant with human rights, especially



Migrants are brought to shore after being intercepted by the Libyan coast guard on the Mediterranean Sea. **YUSEF MURAD/AP 2021**

when dealing with irregular migrants."

The European Commission and the EU's External Action Service — the equivalent of the 27-nation bloc's foreign office — declined to comment on the report. But spokesman Peter Stano confirmed the EU is determined to train coast guard personnel and bolster Libya's capacity to manage a massive search-and-rescue area of the Mediterranean.

The EU training program "remains firm on the table to increase the capacity of the Libyan authorities to save lives at sea," Stano said.

Criticism of Europe's migration policies has been growing. At least three requests have been filed to the International Criminal Court demanding that Libyan and European officials, as well as traffickers, militiamen and others

be investigated for crimes against humanity. A U.N. inquiry published in October also found evidence that abuses committed in Libya may amount to crimes against humanity.

Last week, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for countries to "reexamine policies that support interception at sea and return of refugees and migrants to Libya."

Stano dismissed those criticisms. "When it comes to migration, our objective is to save peoples' lives, protect those in need and fight trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling," he said.

Human rights defenders and asylum seekers disagree.

"The Europeans pretend to show the good face," said a Cameroonian woman who arrived in Libya in 2016 with her child thinking she would find work. Instead, she was

trafficked and forced into prostitution after being separated from her daughter. The AP does not identify victims of sexual violence.

In 2018 she got on a smuggler's boat bound for Europe but her group was caught by Libyan authorities and taken to the Tajoura detention center where detainees were beaten and abused. She was only released after a friend paid a \$700 ransom to the guards.

Questioned about the detention centers in Libya, Stano said the EU's position is clear: "They are unacceptable. The current arbitrary detention system must end."

But nothing has changed on the ground. The Libyan government last month named Mohammed Al-Khoja, a militia leader implicated in abuses against migrants, to head the Department for Combating

Irregular Migration, which oversees the detention centers.

"The same people in charge of dismantling the trafficking business are the traffickers themselves," said Violeta Moreno-Lax, founder of the immigration law program at Queen Mary University of London.

The EU report noted the "excessive use of physical force" by a Libyan patrol during the Sept. 15 interception of a wooden boat with about 20 migrants off the coast of Libya.

The Libyan forces used tactics "never observed before and not in compliance with (EU) training ... as well as international regulation," said the report. It provided no further details about what exactly happened.

A spokesman for the Libyan coast guard did not

respond to AP requests for comment about that incident or the EU report. In the past, Libyan Interior Ministry and coast guard officials have said they are doing their best with limited resources in a country plagued by years of civil war.

Ozlem Demirel, a German Left party member of the European Parliament, said the report offered "further evidence that there should be no cooperation with this force."

"The fact that Irini is even seeking further training is, in my view, outrageous," she said.

Violent tactics employed by Libyan authorities at sea have been widely documented for years. Last week, activists on a volunteer rescue ship reported seeing a Libyan patrol vessel "shooting at a person who had jumped into the water."

Painful wait for CIA-trained Afghan fighters

Many longing to live in US stuck in UAE after chaos in Kabul

By Julian E. Barnes, Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Charlie Savage
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — During the frantic evacuation from Afghanistan in August, the U.S. troops securing the Kabul airport against suicide bombers and other dangers were not alone.

At the direction of the CIA, agency-trained Afghan counterterrorism squads helped patrol the perimeter, secure the gates and get U.S. citizens through them.

Those Afghan commandos stayed to the end and were among the last allies to be evacuated. But even as some 80,000 other Afghan refugees quickly reached the United States, hundreds of the CIA-backed fighters and their families are among thousands who remained stuck at a sprawling refugee compound in the Emirati desert.

As weeks have turned into months, some members of the CIA-backed squads — which at times over the past two decades were accused of killing civilians and other wartime abuses — say they feel abandoned, victims of a chaotic withdrawal in which the speed with which departing Afghans reached the United States was often determined by nothing more than what kind of plane they left on.

Biden administration officials say they are on track to eventually come to the United States.

But the plight of the commandos underscores the issues continuing to plague the extensive evacuation, vetting and resettlement efforts five months after the abrupt Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August.

At the most basic level, all of the Afghans who helped the NATO forces during the



Afghans wait last August outside the airport in Kabul as they try to flee the country. **JIM HUYLEBROEK/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021**

20-year Afghanistan War and are now in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, are fortunate: They got out with their families and are safe. Since August, there have been a slew of nonjudicial killings carried out against former government security force members who remained in Afghanistan.

But interviews with a half-dozen officials involved in the effort and people familiar with the accounts provided by some of the commandos help illustrate the major differences in how Afghans who got out are being treated based on which planes they boarded at the Kabul airport.

Afghans who got onto U.S. military planes are the more fortunate: They were taken to bases where deals with host countries allowed them to stay for only a few weeks. After they were vetted at such temporary transit locations, the Homeland Security Department invoked a rarely used "humanitarian parole" power to swiftly move them to the United States.

As a result, nearly all

of those roughly 80,000 Afghans have now already been able to reach the United States. Most of them have been resettled and are starting new lives — even though their applications for permanent status with a Special Immigrant Visa, or SIV, are still being processed.

By contrast, those Afghans who boarded non-U.S. evacuation flights, such as charters operated by the United Arab Emirates, were taken to facilities in host countries where they can stay indefinitely, including the UAE-run compound known as Emirates Humanitarian City. A significant portion of its roughly 9,000 refugee residents are CIA-trained fighters and their families, according to people familiar with the matter.

A vast majority of thousands of CIA-trained fighters and their families have already been relocated to the United States, American officials said. But that has made the waiting for the hundreds in United Arab Emirates all the more painful, according to the former Afghan commandos.

Because those Afghans in places like Humanitarian City are safe, the United States is processing them through regular bureaucratic order, officials said. As a result, they are being required to wait there until their SIV applications are completed — which can take many months. Requirements for vaccinations and medical tests can further slow the process.

Biden administration officials were reluctant to talk about or acknowledge the CIA-backed squads specifically. But they insisted that all the evacuees in Humanitarian City and other countries would be treated fairly.

"We're working to develop a standardized process that ensures we make good on our commitments to our Afghan allies," Emily Horne, a National Security Council spokeswoman, said in a statement.

One official said that about 500 SIV applicants a week reach a stage in the process where the State Department places them in a queue for eventual transfer to the United States and

that about a quarter of the population of refugees in Humanitarian City is now at that stage.

But that official also said even for that group, it was likely to be several more months at best before those applicants would complete other steps in the visa process.

The fighters are unlike most other refugees in a number of respects, not least the key role they played in working with the CIA on the counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaigns, in which they were often sent to kill or capture high-profile targets such as those in the Taliban's violent Haqqani network and al-Qaida.

Multiple senior U.S. officials said the counterterrorism fighters were not being evaluated with greater caution because of the type of role they played in the war and that they were on track to receive SIV status. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the nature of the work done by the Afghans in conjunction with the CIA.

And after The New York Times began asking questions about the group, U.S. officials have tried to reassure them that they will get visas to enter the United States in the next three to six months, according to people briefed on the conversations.

That two-tiered system in which some Afghans must complete their visa process before entering, another official said, reflects the scale of the challenge: U.S. programs that resettle refugees are already overwhelmed, having been cut back in the Trump years and then being faced with the huge influx of Afghans. There are still about 12,000 Afghans at domestic military bases awaiting matching with resettlement agencies that will move them to a city and help them get started, officials said.

There are also smaller groups of Afghan refugees still hoping to come to the U.S. scattered about elsewhere, including about 250 at a transit zone in Qatar. And there are about 200 at a NATO base in Kosovo, comprising several dozen men who were weeded out in the initial vetting of those otherwise eligible for humanitarian parole and so are undergoing additional screening, along with relatives staying with them.

But even as U.S. officials counsel patience, those who find themselves still waiting in the desert outside Abu Dhabi are growing frustrated.

Those feelings appear particularly sharp among the counterterrorism units, who say they served the United States at significant personal risk to the end — even as other units surrendered to the Taliban or melted into the countryside.

"These guys should get credit for doing what they did for 20 years — fight our common enemy, al-Qaida and the Taliban," said Mick Mulroy, a retired CIA paramilitary officer and Afghanist

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Record 14.5M Americans sign up for ACA coverage

Congressional action still needed to extend ‘Obamacare’ subsidies next year

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least 14.5 million Americans are getting private health insurance for this year under the Obama-era health law, thanks to help from the Biden administration.

“Health care should be a right, not a privilege, for all Americans,” President Joe Biden said Thursday in a statement announcing the numbers. “We are making that right a reality for a record number of people, bringing down costs and increasing access for families across the country.”

But progress could prove fleeting if congressional Democrats remain deadlocked over Biden’s social agenda package. Biden’s earlier coronavirus relief bill has been providing generous subsidy increases that benefit new and returning customers by lowering premiums and out-of-pocket costs. The enhanced financial assistance is temporary. It will go away at the end of 2022 without congressional action to extend it additional years or make it permanent,

included in the social agenda legislation.

Separately, the Department of Health and Human Services said the latest information from a major ongoing federal survey suggests that the nation’s uninsured rate dipped last year, as the Biden administration provided a special sign-up period due to the pandemic. The uninsured rate was 8.9% in the three-month period from July to September 2021, compared with 10.3% for the final three months of 2020.

“Those are all arrows ... in the right direction,” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said.

The ACA, better known as “Obamacare,” offers health insurance to people who lack job-based coverage through a mix of subsidized private plans and expanded Medicaid, which is provided in most states. Thursday’s numbers reflect the private insurance side of the program, available in all states through HealthCare.gov or state-run health insurance markets. All told, the number of people covered through the Obama law is estimated around 30 million.

“This did not happen by accident,” Biden said. His COVID-19 relief bill, he noted, “did

more to lower costs and expand access to health care than any action since the passage of the Affordable Care Act.”

Besides improved subsidies, the Biden administration also focused more attention on outreach, increasing the number of enrollment counselors and stepping up advertising.

The administration is touting the 14.5 million sign-ups as a record, but that number is not strictly comparable to recent years because the federal open enrollment season was extended under Biden. The final number is likely to be even higher as several states are allowing residents to sign up until Monday. It’s working out to an increase of roughly 20% over last open enrollment season.

Some Democratic senators are expressing confidence that Congress will pass the extension of health care subsidies.

Biden wants to move the U.S. closer to coverage for all by building on existing programs like the Obama law and Medicaid, so a robust sign-up season was a priority for his administration.

US jobless claims fall for 1st time in a month

By Matt Ott
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week following three consecutive increases amid a surge in cases of the omicron variant of COVID-19.

Jobless claims fell by 30,000 to 260,000 last week, the Labor Department reported Thursday, fewer than the 265,000 analysts were expecting.

The four-week average of claims, which compensates for weekly volatility, rose by 15,000 to 247,000, the highest in two months.

Altogether, nearly 1.7 million people were collecting jobless aid the week that ended Jan. 15, a nominal increase of 51,000 from the previous week.

Jobless claims, a proxy for layoffs, had fallen mostly steadily for about a year and late last year dipped below the pre-pandemic average of around 220,000 a week. Economists expect claims to return to those lower levels as the virus fades, which is already taking place in regions that were hit first with omicron infections.

The job market has bounced back from last year’s brief but intense coronavirus recession, and companies are desperate to retain and hire workers, despite the recent uptick in jobless claims.

The unemployment rate settled at 3.9% last month, a steady decline from nearly 15% in the spring of 2020 when the pandemic devastated the global economy.

Massive government spending and the vaccine rollout jump-started the economy as employers added a record 6.4 million jobs last year.

But hiring slowed in November and December last year as employers struggled to fill job openings.

Still, the unemployment rate fell last month to a pandemic low.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Tata Sons group regains Air India

NEW DELHI — Tata Sons, India’s oldest and largest conglomerate, has regained ownership of Air India, the country’s debt-laden national carrier.

Tata pioneered commercial aviation in India when it launched the airline in 1932. It was taken over by the government in 1953.

Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday ahead of a meeting with Air India officials. In October, Tata’s \$2.4 billion bid for the carrier prevailed over a bid by India SpiceJet.

Tata will absorb \$2 billion of the airline’s more than \$8.2 billion debt burden, a government statement said. It takes control of 121 Air India aircraft and 25 planes of its Air India Express subsidiary.

EV alliance plans \$26B investment

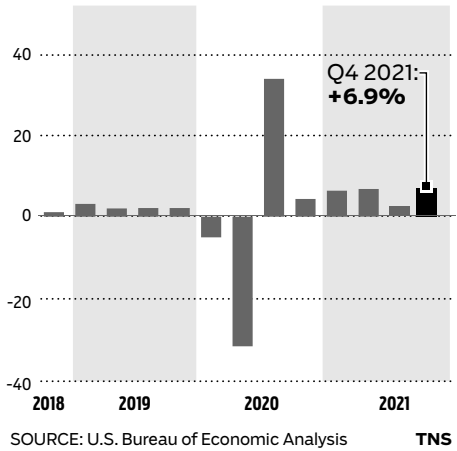
TOKYO — The French-Japanese auto alliance of Renault and Nissan plans to invest \$26 billion in electric vehicle technology over the next five years, the companies said Thursday.

The alliance, which also includes smaller Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp., will share research, auto parts and technology to bring down costs and produce 35 new electric vehicle models by 2030, aiming at markets around the world. The vehicles will use one of five common platforms, the main parts on which vehicles are built.

Nissan Motor Co. will lead in developing a next-generation battery for the electric vehicles, while Renault will lead in developing electronics and software.

GDP

Percent change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted, advance estimate:



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

TNS



Deborah Turner, of Columbus, Ohio, found that her local dollar stores didn’t stock LED bulbs. MADDIE MCGARVEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Inefficient bulbs still in stock

Research shows they’re being sold in stores serving poorer areas amid slow US phaseout

By Hiroko Tabuchi
The New York Times

Research has shown that lower-end retailers like dollar stores or convenience shops still extensively stock their shelves with traditional or halogen incandescent bulbs — the pear-shaped orbs with glowing wire centers — even as stores serving more affluent communities have shifted to selling far more efficient LEDs.

One Michigan study, for instance, found that not only were LED bulbs less available in poorer areas, they also tended to cost on average \$2.50 more per bulb than in wealthier communities.

The continued prevalence of incandescent bulbs in the United States is one result of a successful effort during the Trump presidency, by an industry group representing the world’s biggest light-bulb makers, to stall energy efficiency standards in the country. By contrast, in the European Union, those same companies have adhered to a phaseout of incandescent bulbs.

The delay has enabled manufacturers to prolong profits from an inefficient technol-

ogy, often at the expense of lower-income households, which end up having to replace the short-lived bulbs more frequently, while also paying more to power them.

For the world’s biggest manufacturers — like Signify, the Dutch multinational that makes Phillips light bulbs — that is a lucrative strategy. Signify’s financial reports show that profit margins for conventional lighting are significantly higher than for its LED business. In its corporate reports, Signify has called extracting value from its conventional lighting a “cash engine” for the company.

That is partly because investment in manufacturing equipment has long been paid off (incandescent bulbs have been around for more than a century) and there is relatively little competition. The LED market, on the other hand, has attracted new manufacturers and has become far more competitive.

Incandescent bulbs were supposed to be phased out in the United States beginning a decade ago. While the older types of incandescent bulbs have mostly disappeared, the halogen-filled types, which are not much better though they are often marketed as environmentally friendly, are still easy to find everywhere from dollar stores to big-box hardware chains.

About 30% of standard bulbs sold in the

United States in 2020 — excluding California, which phased out most halogen and incandescent light bulbs in 2020 — were still incandescent or halogen bulbs, according to the most recent data available. In the European Union, that percentage has been close to zero since 2018.

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the industry group that represents more than 300 corporations including Signify and GE Lighting, said that the industry had already contributed greatly to trimming electricity use by investing in energy-saving LED technology in the first place. Signify said LEDs represent more than 80% of its sales. It also said that prices for energy-efficient light bulbs had continued to fall, making them available to a broadening audience.

A typical 60-watt incandescent bulb uses as much as 12 times the electricity as a 5-watt LED that provides nearly the same amount of light. And LED bulbs typically last far longer. According to the manufacturers’ own ratings, at three hours of use per day, an incandescent bulb would be good for one to three years, while a typical LED would last at least 10 years.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, the environmental group, calculates that over the longer life of an LED, savings can range from \$50 to more than \$150 per bulb.

Spotify pulling Young’s songs at his request

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Spotify has started to remove rock star Neil Young’s songs at his request, following the musician’s protest over the streaming service airing a popular podcast that featured a figure criticized for spreading COVID-19 misinformation.

Spotify said Wednesday that it regretted Young’s decision, “but hope to welcome him back soon.”

“I realized I could not continue to support Spotify’s life-threatening misinformation to the music loving people,” Young said.

Young had asked his management and record company publicly Monday to remove his music from the popular stream-

ing service, where he had more than 6 million monthly listeners, according to his Spotify homepage.

Spotify airs the popular podcast, “The Joe Rogan Experience,” where last month the comedian interviewed Dr. Robert Malone, an infectious disease specialist who has become a hero in the anti-vaccine community. Malone has been banned from Twitter for spreading COVID-19 misinformation and has falsely suggested that millions of people have been hypnotized into believing that the vaccines work to prevent serious disease.

Spotify said Thursday that “we have detailed content policies in place and we’ve removed over 20,000 podcast episodes related to COVID-19 since the start of the

pandemic.”

The company says it has a team of experts that reviews content, and it’s removed if the information presented can cause harm or pose a direct threat to public health. False suggestions that injecting bleach could fight the virus, that COVID-19 wasn’t real or that vaccines could be deadly were among those removed from the platform.

Young said that many of Spotify’s listeners are hearing misleading information about COVID-19. “These young people believe Spotify would never present grossly unfactual information,” he said. “They unfortunately are wrong. I knew I had to try to point that out.”

The New York Times contributed.

BUSINESS

It's not 'a playground for rich folks'

Opponents of closing Hartford's Brainard Airport ramp up pressure

By **Kenneth R. Gosselin**
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A fledgling organization fighting to keep Hartford-Brainard Airport open ramped up the pressure Thursday, arguing the push for closing the century-old airfield is coming without any solid plan for what would replace it.

“We feel very strongly that the citizens of greater Hartford have the right to know, in detail, just what is happening to this important facility,” Michael Teiger, a board member of the Hartford Brainard Airport Association, said, in a news conference at the airport. “It is our position that the benefits of the airport unquestionable out weigh any other alternative, whatever they might be.”

The association was formed earlier this month as the Hartford City Council pressed ahead with forming a task force that would outline the best path forward to shuttering Brainard and options for its future redevelopment.

Teiger said Thursday the association, now incor-

porated as a nonprofit, represents more than 100 pilots, business owners and others who want to see the century-old airport stay open.

Barbara Rowley, co-owner of VIP Avionics and related aircraft maintenance and instrument repair businesses at Brainard, said the 40-year-old business is one of the few offering such services in New England.

“We sell and service to customers in all 50 states,” Rowley said. “We bring in aircraft from all over New England and the mid-Atlantic states.”

Rowley said her company services state police aircraft, Life Star helicopters and the civil air patrol — not only in Connecticut but New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

“Brainard Airport provides a convenient and appropriate location and size to accomplish hundreds — literally hundreds — of FAA-mandated inspections every year to general aircraft owners, to private aircraft owners,” Rowley said.

Teiger rejected the notion that the airport is “a playground for rich folks” with



The air traffic control tower at Hartford-Brainard Airport. A newly formed organization is fighting renewed efforts to shut down the century-old airfield. **FILE**

single- and twin-engine planes.

“To the contrary, it is an unknown and poorly understood jewel, existing right in the center of our region that supports all the general aviation has to offer,” Teiger said.

Brainard, Teiger said, supports hundreds of jobs — directly and indirectly — and generates \$3.36 million in state taxes annually. Teiger said the airport should be used as an amenity, including to attract new employers to the Hartford area.

Critics of the airport,

including Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and state Sen. John W. Fonfara, D-Hartford, say the 200-acre airfield is at the enviable intersection of two interstate highways and with frontage on the riverfront.

Brainard would be better targeted for a mixed-use development, including housing, entertainment venues, shops and a marina, that would draw visitors and new residents into the city and provide a much-needed boost to city tax coffers, they say.

State-owned Brainard is controlled by the Connecticut Airport Authority, which says it has no plans to close the airfield. But Brainard could still be closed with a vote of the state legislature.

It also is expected that the report of council-formed task force will be submitted to the legislature to bolster the argument for closing Brainard.

The Metropolitan District Commission, the regional water and sewer authority, spearheaded an airport redevelopment proposal in 2006.

The proposal called for nearly 7 million square feet of commercial and manufacturing space, stores, apartments, a marina, a rebuilt trash-to-energy plant, an expansion of its nearby wastewater treatment plant and a river park.

The MDC plan was headed up by William DiBella, a former Democratic state Senate majority leader who remains the MDC's chairman.

No other conceptual plans for the area exist besides the 2006 vision advanced by the MDC.

A 2016 legislative report concluded the airport should remain open. The report recommended further investment in Brainard, rather than redevelopment.

Redevelopment, the report said, would be too costly, require large public subsidies and take at least two decades. Others have said contamination in the area, which includes the soon-to-be closed trash burning plant would be too costly.

The report has been dismissed by Fonfara and others who favor redevelopment.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com

Judge blocks BNSF unions from striking over new rule

By **Josh Funk**
Associated Press

BNSF railroad's two biggest unions that represent 17,000 workers won't be able to go on strike over a new attendance policy they say would penalize employees for missing work for any reason.

A federal judge ruled this week that a strike would likely violate federal law because under their contracts railroad unions

aren't allowed to strike over minor disputes. Instead, those must be settled through arbitration or negotiation.

Judge Mark Pittman said Tuesday that a strike would hurt BNSF and could cause significant damage to the economy because of the role the railroad plays in delivering all kinds of goods.

“The record further establishes that a strike would exacerbate our current supply-chain crisis — harm-

ing the public at large, not just BNSF,” Pittman wrote.

The Fort Worth, Texas-based railroad went to court this month after the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, and the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation unions said they were considering going on strike to protest the new policy that is set to go into effect Tuesday.

The unions said they were

surveying their members about whether they would support a strike because the stringent new rules would sanction workers for taking sick time or time off to attend a family member's funeral. They said the rules would provide an incentive for workers to come in when they are sick even if they have COVID-19 symptoms and punish local union officials who take time off to represent workers at disciplinary hearings.

Union officials didn't immediately respond to questions about the ruling.

Under the new policy, engineers and conductors begin with 30 points, and then points are deducted from that for absences, with the deductions ranging from two points to 25 points. A worker can earn four points back by being available to work for 14 days in a row, including weekends.

An employee would be disciplined when their

points are exhausted.

BNSF said it came up with the new system to modernize its policy and give its employees an easier way to see where they stand under the rules, and make sure it has enough employees available to staff its trains.

The railroad said it believes its new attendance rules will still allow employees to take time off for vacations and deal with obligations outside of work.

MARKET RUNDOWN																																																																																			
Friday, January 28, 2022																																																																																			
<div>↓ DOW</div> <div>34,160.78 -7.31</div>	<div>↓ 10-YR T-BOND</div> <div>1.81% -.03</div>	<div>↓ GOLD</div> <div>\$1,793.30 -36.60</div>																																																																																	
<div><div>36,520</div><div>34,820</div><div>33,120</div><div>10 DAYS</div><div>37,600</div><div>36,800</div><div>36,000</div><div>35,200</div><div>34,400</div><div>33,600</div><div>A S O N D J</div><div>Dow Jones Industrials</div><div>Close: 34,160.78</div><div>Change: -7.31 (flat)</div></div>	<div>Commodities</div> <table><tr><th></th><th>CLOSE</th><th>PREV.</th><th>YTD</th></tr><tr><td>FUELS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Crude Oil (bbl)</td><td>86.61</td><td>87.35</td><td>+15.16%</td></tr><tr><td>Natural Gas (mm btu)</td><td>4.28</td><td>4.28</td><td>+14.66%</td></tr><tr><td>Unleaded Gas (gal)</td><td>2.52</td><td>2.52</td><td>+13.14%</td></tr><tr><td>METALS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gold (oz)</td><td>1,793.30</td><td>1,829.90</td><td>-1.87%</td></tr><tr><td>Silver (oz)</td><td>22.67</td><td>23.81</td><td>-2.81%</td></tr></table> <div>(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)</div>		CLOSE	PREV.	YTD	FUELS				Crude Oil (bbl)	86.61	87.35	+15.16%	Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.28	4.28	+14.66%	Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.52	2.52	+13.14%	METALS				Gold (oz)	1,793.30	1,829.90	-1.87%	Silver (oz)	22.67	23.81	-2.81%																																																		
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AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	14.52	-1.42	-46.6	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	40.62	-1.06	-9.5																																																																												
AT&T Inc (T)	24.12	-.13	-2.0	MetLife Inc (MET)	65.31	-.75	+4.5																																																																												
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	102.60	-8.11	-28.7	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	299.84	+3.13	-10.8																																																																												
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	15.78	-.46	-12.1	Novartis AG (NVS)	85.14	+9.0	-2.7																																																																												
Amphenol Corp (APH)	75.03	-1.31	-14.2	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	219.44	-8.28	-25.4																																																																												
Apple Inc (AAPL)	159.22	-.47	-10.3	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	82.61	+1.09	-5.1																																																																												
Aridis Pharmaceut (ARDS)	2.01	+2.7	-13.7	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.28	-.47	-32.6																																																																												
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.32	+4.7	-9.1	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	19.27	+1.1	+8.1																																																																												
Bank of America (BAC)	45.47	-.43	+2.2	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	53.37	+7.6	-9.6																																																																												
Barnes Group (B)	44.91	-.55	-3.6	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	5.80	...	-12.5																																																																												
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2359.65	-10.98	-1.6	Plug Power Inc (PLUG)	18.26	-1.21	-35.3																																																																												
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	63.86	+1.62	+2.4	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	110.61	-1.17	+2.2																																																																												
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	106.79	+1.93	+3.5	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	65.40	+7.1	-2.0																																																																												
Carnival Corp (CCL)	19.11	-1.18	-5.0	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	89.28	+3.0	+3.7																																																																												
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	46.09	-.58	-15.0	Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	11.61	-.80	-34.6																																																																												
Charter Communic (CHTR)	561.03	+6.03	-13.9	Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.00	+4.3	...																																																																												
Cigna Corp (CI)	227.43	-6.59	-1.0	Roblox Corp (RBLX)	57.06	-5.96	-44.7																																																																												
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	54.62	-.71	-13.8	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	76.41	+0.2	-6.8																																																																												
Citigroup (C)	64.15	-.60	+6.2	Schlumberger Ltd (SLB)	38.86	-.94	+29.7																																																																												
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	48.01	-.45	-4.6	Sirius XM Hldgs Inc (SIRI)	6.13	+1.5	-3.5																																																																												
Disney (DIS)	135.42	+1.82	-12.6	Snap Inc A (SNAP)	28.30	-.33	-39.8																																																																												
DouYu Internatl Hldg (DOYU)	2.52	+3.1	-4.5	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	11.36	-1.22	-28.1																																																																												
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	19.39	-.94	-29.4	Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	4.16	-.02	-10.7																																																																												
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	115.80	-.55	-9.1	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	171.67	-3.36	-9.0																																																																												
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	9.60	-.09	+16.6	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.02	-.20	-1.2																																																																												
Epizyme Inc (EPZM)	1.06	-.84	-57.6	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.43	-.03	-25.3																																																																												
Ethan Allen (ETD)	23.76	-.21	-9.6	Terex Corp (TEX)	41.44	-1.08	-5.7																																																																												
Eversource Energy (ES)	85.74	+1.09	-5.8	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	829.10	-108.31	-21.5																																																																												
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.55	-.10	-37.9	Travelers Cos (TRV)	165.66	-2.20	+5.9																																																																												
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	75.12	+9.5	+22.8	Uber Technologies (UBER)	34.09	-.71	-18.7																																																																												
Ford Motor (F)	19.55	-.36	-5.9	United Rentals (URI)	319.80	+12.04	-3.8																																																																												
Freeport McMoRan (FCX)	37.10	-1.33	-11.1	US Steel Corp (X)	18.59	-.02	-21.9																																																																												
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	3.56	-.30	-31.5	UnitedHealthGroup (UNH)	461.60	+3.17	-8.1																																																																												
Gen Dynamics (GD)	208.80	+3.88	-4.2	Verizon Comm (VZ)	51.19	+1.7	-1.5																																																																												
Gen Electric (GE)	89.90	+5.8	-4.8	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	245.40	-2.94	-17.4																																																																												
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)	5.71	-.23	-19.9	Voya Financial (VOYA)	68.52	-.55	+3.3																																																																												
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.87	-.36	+1.2	Webster Financial (WBS)	58.46	-1.15	+4.7																																																																												
Honeywell Intl (HON)	200.65	...	-3.8	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	53.76	-.38	+12.0																																																																												
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	14.35	-.08	-9.9	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1013.00	+49	-1																																																																												
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	21.81	-.58	-13.8	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	48.83	+28	-1.0																																																																												
Intel Corp (INTC)	48.05	-3.64	-6.7	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	62.73	-2.65	-19.0																																																																												
Kaman (KAMN)	40.02	-1.16	-7.3	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.43	+3.2	-9.8																																																																												
Keycorp (KEY)	24.94	-.30	+7.8																																																																																
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.42	-1.20	+2																																																																																
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	28.70	-4.71	-24.6																																																																																

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Enduring a year of American disappointment



Ross Douthat

A year ago last week, Joe Biden was inaugurated as president of a country poised between two possible post-pandemic futures — one more dynamic and one more stagnant, one in which the shock of COVID-19 shoved American society out of our ruts and repetitions and one in which the pandemic only deepened our stagnation.

Today the president is enduring dismal approval ratings in large part because the stagnant future is winning. The dynamic scenarios have been postponed or blocked or disappointed, while the grimmer possibilities have increasingly dominated our reality. If 2020 was a year of crisis that seemed to open into a more hopeful American future, 2021 was a year of closed doors, downward tugs and disappointment.

The hopes for dynamism a year ago started with the fact that we had come through the worst of the pandemic without a severe recession, and the American economy kept absorbing new infusions of cash without worrisome inflation. This suggested that there was room for

an ambitious liberal agenda that basically built on the Trump-era economic expansion — rejecting austerity and using loose money and deficit spending to sustain solid growth and low unemployment deep into the 2020s.

All those economic hopes depended on vaccines whose effectiveness at the time looked somewhere between impressive and amazing. But the vaccines were also treated as a proof-of-concept for an age of renewed innovation, which it was hoped the COVID-19 experience would accelerate — with mRNA vaccines just one of a longer list of wonders, from new energy tech to new forms of transportation, from life extension to space exploration.

And along with those hopes there was also hope for dramatic social shifts. Last June tech baron Marc Andreessen, whose widely circulated essay “It’s Time to Build” lamented American sclerosis early in the pandemic, wrote a much more bullish piece celebrating the success of technology — from vaccines to Zoom meetings — in the battle against COVID-19. He placed a particular stress on the success of remote work, hailing it as “permanent civilizational shift” with the potential to shatter geographical concentrations of power.

But the optimistic Andreessen essay was published just as the delta variant began spreading around the United States in earnest, and since then, the dynamism

scenario has taken a beating.

First came the rise in inflation, which reduced the free-lunch opportunities that seemed to be available last spring. With that disappointment has come political disappointment for Democrats, who briefly imagined themselves building a new majority while presiding over a 2020s boom, and instead seemed poised for a big reversion, a swift return to the gridlock that has characterized American politics throughout our long era of stagnation.

Then there is the disappointment of the vaccines. They are a lifesaving weapon, but medically they have also fallen well short of initial hopes: Their strongest protection fades fast, they require boosters at a pace that makes near-universal uptake unimaginable, and they haven’t reduced transmission enough to actually crush COVID-19.

And there isn’t even clear evidence yet for the possible social upside of remote work, the hope that the professional class will be scattered geographically and our political self-segregation will diminish.

I want to believe in this great-dispersal theory, and clearly some people have fled our overpriced megalopolises to raise their kids in small cities and rural splendor, or just moved to Florida or Texas from California or the Northeast. But the preliminary migration data, up to March 2021, mostly suggests a worsening of American immobility. The decadeslong decline in

people moving within the United States, itself a symptom of our general stagnation, only deepened under COVID-19 conditions. Fewer people left cities *and* fewer people left suburbs relative to the pre-pandemic period, suggesting that rather than introducing a new geographic dynamism, a remote-work version of the frontier spirit, mostly the crisis just froze the social order.

Of course all of this is just a snapshot, and a particularly grim midwinter’s one at that. What was uncertain a year ago about life after the pandemic remains highly provisional today. Most of the prophesied technological innovations still look like possibilities. We don’t know where endemic COVID-19 will settle, and the relative mildness of omicron offers hope that its permanent presence will be more an irritation than an open wound. The great dispersal might already be happening among elites, in numbers too small to meaningfully affect the aggregate, but with beneficial consequences over years and decades for society as a whole. The Republicans might be handed a sweeping majority in 2022 and 2024 and find their own way to governing success. (Don’t laugh.)

Overall, the best hope at the moment is that 2021 will be remembered as a year of unhappy and partial stabilization.

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

Latest bias to worry about: Recency bias

By Tyler Cowen
Bloomberg Opinion

For all the talk about how political and media bias distort people’s perceptions of current events, another kind of bias may have an even greater impact: recency bias. Put simply, recency bias is the practice of giving disproportionate weight to the events of the recent past when formulating expectations and plans.

For instance, starting in 2008 the U.S. Federal Reserve increased the money supply sharply, and the rate of price inflation did not rise correspondingly. One result of this recent episode of expansionary monetary policy is that America became less vigilant about inflation — and it is now living with the consequences.

Another example: For decades, antisemitism seemed to be declining in American life. Many people assumed that this trend would continue. Yet violent attacks on synagogues and rabbis, one measure of antisemitic sentiment, have lately been on the rise.

If you were surprised by that development, you might have been a captive of your own recency bias: Antisemitism, including in its most violent forms, has been a longstanding feature of Western history, and it would be a mistake to assume it will go away. Of course it would be doubling down on recency bias to now assume that the rise in antisemitic attacks is going to continue.

The view that America was unprepared for a pandemic is another example of recency bias. The AIDS epidemic, which has killed possibly 35 million people worldwide in the last four decades, should have instilled the need for better planning, but many Americans saw that disease as something unlikely to happen to them. Major generalized pandemics, meanwhile, were perceived as something of the distant past.

Yet the more accurate, longer-term reality is this: Pandemics have recurred, albeit with varying lags, throughout human history.

I fear we are committing a form of recency bias by not focusing more on nuclear weapons and the policies surrounding nuclear proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. Atomic bombs have not been used against humans since 1945 and so for many people they are not



Thousands of people examine individual panels of the AIDS quilt on the National Mall in Washington. **STEPHEN R. BROWN/AP 1992**

a major concern, having been supplanted by fears of climate change. But a broader lesson of human history is that, if a weapon is available, someone will use it.

The plan for overcoming recency bias is pretty straightforward. Spend less time scrolling through news sites and more time reading books and non-news sites about how your issues of concern have played out in the distant past. If you are young, spend more time talking to older people about what things were like when they were growing up. If you had applied those techniques, Russia’s interest in taking over more parts of Ukraine would not be very surprising.

Nonetheless, rooting out recency bias is difficult. Memory tends to deteriorate, and most people talk about current events far more than they talk about the broader span of history. There is a lot of debate about

Brexit in British pubs, but not so much discussion of the Seven Years’ War of the mid-18th century.

There are historical periods where recency bias makes sense. During Barack Obama’s presidency, for example, you might have expected annual conflicts about health care policy between Democrats and tea party Republicans. And you would have been right, as the parameters just didn’t change that much. Of course, this success for recency bias is ... recent, and thus to many people recency bias seems accurate. Much of American history since World War II has been a story of relative continuity, which makes recency bias all the more appealing.

In the last five years the U.S. seems to have had more inflection points — but even these have been rooted in the more distant past. Donald Trump’s adminis-

tration seemed highly unusual compared to Obama’s or George W. Bush’s. At the same time, it featured many elements from 19th-century American politics, such as extreme mudslinging, populism, a highly partisan press and a general lack of dignity.

Of course it is itself a kind of recency bias to note that many recent errors are the result of recency bias. As we get used to the world being weirder than expected, recency bias might mean overpredicting rather than underpredicting radical change.

In the meantime, history is rhyming, if not quite repeating itself. And understanding current events requires more than just a constant clicking of the refresh button on Twitter.

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Parents need choices in education to protect their values

By Jonathan Butcher
The Heritage Foundation

Montana is one of the least populated states in the lower 48, but what flows out of it reaches to the far corners of the U.S. Montana is the only state hosting rivers that empty into Hudson Bay to the east, Gulf of Mexico to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

During National School Choice Week 2022, parents should be watching what else comes out of the Big Sky State.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2020 in favor of parents who choose private schools for their children and a state attorney general’s opinion in 2021 protecting the American ideals of freedom and opportunity in the classroom are giving a boost to parents trying to meet their child’s unique learning needs.

In 2020, the Court ruled in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* that state officials could not prevent parents from choosing a school based on their most deeply held beliefs. Montana offers a K-12 private school scholarship program that provides tax credits for charitable contributions to nonprofit scholarship organizations.

But state officials had blocked parents from choosing religious schools. The court ruled that such schools could not be excluded.

One year after the ruling, commentators would dub 2021 the “year of school choice” as lawmakers in 19 states either created or expanded public and private school learning options for students.

Amid COVID-19, many parents wrestled with mask mandates and new vaccination requirements, along with sharply political classroom content, all while watching student achievement fall precipitously. All that had Families appropriately start asking: Does our child’s school reflect what we believe is best — and if not, what can we do about it?

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen recently said in an e-mail response to questions about parent choices in education, “The school closures that occurred over the last two years have been one of the biggest catalysts for parental involvement and the school choice movement across the country.

“Legislators in Montana and across the country are going to have to be responsive to the new energy and attention that’s been ignited,” Knudsen said. He addressed what

has become a wildfire in his opinion from May 2021 where he stated, “The type of environment that is tolerated or encouraged by or at a school can therefore send a particularly strong signal to, and serve as an influential lesson for, its students.”

Some school officials are either tolerating or even encouraging dismissive attitudes toward parents.

In Pennsylvania, a school board member recently penned commentary telling parents that he “doesn’t work for them.” Parents are free to “vent their spleens” to school boards but “to listen to your repeated distortions of the facts is nauseating.” He repeatedly opened his paragraphs with the phrase “with all due respect,” but it’s hard to conclude that he actually does respect parents.

Writing in CNN last fall, the 2021 New York state teacher of the year said that school board meetings have become the place where “scared and angry people descend” to make demands of board members “without filter or grace.” The teacher appears to be pleading for civil conduct, but she does not help her cause by insulting the parents who want to advocate for their children.

Montana’s Knudsen insists that “parents

should be able to choose the education environment that best suits their children and their values.” His inclusion of “values” is noteworthy because these closely held beliefs have become the beating heart of National School Choice Week.

Parents have dealt with prolonged school closures due to COVID-19, controversial lesson plans, and intimidating tactics from interest groups. Teacher unions have lobbied to keep schools closed to in-person learning as student grades have suffered, with surges in D’s and F’s around the country. The National School Board Association colluded with the White House last fall to try to intimidate parents by criticizing individuals who have been speaking up at board meetings.

Parents looking for quality learning options for their children today stand between their desire for students to succeed and their belief that their ideas and values—religious or otherwise—should still matter. And that they should not have to set their beliefs aside when they choose how and where their child will learn or bring concerns to a school board.

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Hartford

Notice Of Public Sale

: The following self-storage unit contents
containing household and other goods will
be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 1501 Route
12, Gale Ferry CT 06335 to satisfy a lien
on February 10 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at
www.storage treasures.com:
Cube: 137 - Heidi Rose Jensen
Cube: 209 - Robert Jacobowitz
Cube: 238 - Leeartis Nevith
Cube: 241 - Sarah Lizotte
Cube: 420 - Thomas Demauro 3rd
Cube: 1114 - Donald Brown
Cube: 2232 - Christopher Hernandez
Cube: 2560 - Shannon Larrow
1/27/22 & 1/28/22 7132608

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage unit contents
containing household and other goods will
be sold for cash by CubeSmart 868 Flanders
Rd. Mystic, CT 06355 to satisfy a lien on
February 10 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at
www.storage treasures.com:
Cube: 613 - Jennefer Higginbotham
Cube: 621 - Jennefer Higginbotham
Cube: 657 - Jennefer Higginbotham
1/27/22 & 1/28/22 7132619

EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Is seeking proposals from qualified technol-
ogy companies to design,
supply, and install (if needed) fiber connectiv-
ity to all district buildings.
East Hartford Public Schools, Department of
Technology
1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108
Request For Proposals - # 1806-22
Category 1 Fiber Services
is available at the State of CT/DAS/
CTSource/Bidboard Portal:
https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/
BidBoard
and/or https://www.easthartford.org
BIDS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 1 PM ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022
1/28/22 7138109

EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Is seeking proposals from qualifying ven-
dors to replace aging switches at several
buildings.
East Hartford Public Schools, Department of
Technology
1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108
Request For Proposals - # 1809-22
Replacement Switches District-Wide
is available at the State of CT/DAS/
CTSource/Bidboard Portal:
https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/
BidBoard
and/or https://www.easthartford.org
BIDS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 12:30 PM ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022
1/28/22 7138140

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE
BLUE HILLS FIRE DISTRICT
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Please be advised that a three-year term for
the position of Commissioner will be ending
on April 6, 2022. Any person who wishes to
run to fill this office shall follow the following
procedures:
1. Any person eligible to run for the office of
Commissioner of the District's Board of Fire
Commissioner shall announce his or her can-
didacy in writing to the District Clerk by filing
notice of said intention with the Clerk thirty
(30) days prior to the date of the District's
Annual Meeting on a file established by the
Board of Fire Commissioners for that
purpose. The Annual meeting will be held
on April 6, 2022, from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.
Drive - Through - Walk up vote.
2. Potential Candidates can obtain an ap-
plication at BHF, 1021 Blue Hills Avenue
or email Clerk Barbara Taylor, between the
hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at btaylor@
bluehillsfire.org
3. No person who has filed the required
notice as provided herein shall be
eligible to be elected to the position of
Commissioner.
Barbara Taylor, District Clerk, Blue Hills Fire District
January 28, 2022
1/28/2022 7138488

ORDER OF NOTICELEGAL NOTICE
BLUE HILLS FIRE DISTRICT
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Please be advised that the annual meet-
ing of legal voters of the Blue Hills Fire
District will be held on Wednesday, April
6, 2022, from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, at the
Fire Headquarters: 1021 Blue Hills Ave.,
Bloomfield, CT.
The purpose of the meeting is as follows:
1. To elect a Fire Commissioner for a three
(3) year term
2. To elect a Treasurer for the fiscal year
2022-2023
3. To elect a Clerk for the fiscal year
2022-2023
Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut
Thursday, January 28, 2022
Barbara Taylor, District Clerk
1/28/2022 7138486

CAPITOL REGION

RFP for Solid Waste Consultant and all bid
notices for the CRPC are available at https://
crocog.bonfirehub.com/. If you have any
questions, please contact the office of the
CRPC 860-724-4292, or e-mail crpcstaff@
crocog.org.
1/28/2022 7134342

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #1115
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
CONSULTANT

The Town of Bloomfield requests proposals
for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ("DEI")
Consultant to help devise and implement
policies, practices, programs and organi-
zational behaviors that foster authentic
diversity, equity and inclusion within Town
operations. Submittal requirements may
be obtained from the Purchasing and Risk
Manager, Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Ave.,
Bloomfield, CT 06002 or on the Town's
website, www.bloomfieldct.gov. All responses
must be received by 1:00 p.m. on February
17, 2022 in order to be considered.
1/28/2022 7137366

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

In accordance with section 12-145 of the
Connecticut General Statutes, the Tax
Collector of the Town of Wethersfield hereby
gives notice that the second installment of
taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 is
due and payable on January 1, 2022. Taxes
must be paid on or before February 1, 2022
to avoid interest charges. All taxes paid after
February 1, 2022 will be subject to an inter-
est charge of 1.50% per month from due date
or 3% if paid in the month of February. The
minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

The Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax for
vehicles registered between October 2, 2020
and July 31, 2021 are also due and payable
January 1, 2022 per section 12-71b of the
General Statutes, State of Connecticut.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL SHALL NOT
INVALIDATE THE TAX OR INTEREST CHARGES.

Payment of taxes shall be made at the of-
fice of the Tax Collector, Wethersfield Town
Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield
CT., from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday
through Friday, or by mail to the address
shown above, you may also pay online at
www.wethersfieldct.com.

Please note that the Town Hall will be closed
on January 3rd and January 17th.

Anyone, who has acquired real estate after
October 1, 2021 and does not have a tax bill
in his or her possession, should contact the
tax office without delay.

Marlene Desjardins, CCMC
Tax Collector

Dated: December 9, 2021
12/27/21, 1/8, 28/22 7107235

EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Is seeking proposals from qualifying
vendors to expand its Extreme wireless LAN
infrastructure.
East Hartford Public Schools, Department of
Technology
1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108
Request For Proposals - # 1797-22
Wireless Infrastructure Expansion Project
is available at the State of CT/DAS/
CTSource/Bidboard Portal:
https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/
BidBoard
and/or https://www.easthartford.org
BIDS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022
1/28/2022 7138104

Legal Notice
Request for Letters of Interest
Task Order Sustainability and Resiliency
Support Services

The Connecticut Department of
Transportation is seeking to engage four
(4) consulting firms to provide sustain-
ability and resiliency support services
for transportation projects and assets in
accordance with State and Federal regu-
lations. More detailed information regarding
this assignment can be found at: https://
portal.ct.gov/DOI/Consultant-Selection/
Consultant-Selection-Information.

Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action
Employer
1/27, 1/28/2022 7136823

Development Coordinator for Parkville
Neighborhood Projects
Hartford, Connecticut

The Capital Region Development Authority
("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the
State of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified
contractor to serve as a development project
coordinator in the Parkville neighborhood.
Please see full posting and submission
requirements at https://crda.net/wp-
content/uploads/2022/01/1-27-2022-De-
velopmentCoordinatorParkvilleProjects.pdf
1/28 - 2/13/2022 7138105

LEGAL NOTICE
Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc.
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
RENOVATIONS

The Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc.
is soliciting qualifications from licensed and
insured architects to provide professional
and technical services for renovations at
433 Valley Street, Willimantic, CT. The project
may include but is not limited to renovations
and upgrades, including an adjacent building,
consistent with federal standards.

Qualifications should include the following
information: Name, address, and brief
description of firm, resumes of key personnel
assigned to the project, statement as to
firm's particular abilities and qualifications
related to this project, description of other
similar projects completed by the firm in the
past 5 years, and fee proposal.

Selection criteria will be based in descend-
ing order on technical understanding of the
project, specialized experience of the firm
and its personnel, ability to carry out the
contracted services in a timely fashion, and
fee proposal.

Firms or individuals must be able to provide
evidence of insurance meeting the minimum
requirements of \$500,000 errors and
omissions, general liability \$1,000,000 and
Workers Compensation.

Three (3) copies of the Qualifications are due
at the Windham Region No Freeze Project no
later than 5:00 PM on February 7, regardless
of the method of delivery. Qualifications may
be mailed to: Windham No Freeze, PO Box
46, Willimantic, CT 06226. Faxed or emailed
submissions will not be accepted. Interviews
will be scheduled after all qualifications are
received.

The Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc.
is an EEO/AA employer and encourages
Small, Minority, Women owned and Section
3 firms to apply.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2022
Avery Lenhart, Executive Director
1/27, 1/28/2022 7136578

Public Sale of Mobile Home

17 Grove Terrace, Westbrook, CT
A 1982 Burlington 14 x 56 mobile home
Pursuant to C.G.S. 21-80(e)(1) Sale will
extinguish all previous ownership and lien
rights.
Further information can be obtained by call-
ing 860-853-6008.
Auction will take place at 17 Grove Terrace,
Westbrook, CT on January 18, 2022 at 10am
1/14, 1/21, 1/28/2022 7127613



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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Bristol
Clifford L. Miller
Robert B. Schoolnick
Marie St. John

Farmington
Frances M. Cresenzi

Hartford
Robert B. Schoolnick

New Britain
Ruth Beasley
Carmelo Gionfriddo

Other Towns in CT
Marie St. John
Dean T. Toepfer

Plainville
Andrew P. Michaud

South Windsor
Marjorie M. Carella

Vernon
Marjorie M. Carella

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Beasley, Ruth

Ruth (Simmons) Beasley, age 89, of New Britain, died Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at the Hospital of Central CT @ New Britain General. Born in Marion, South Carolina, the daughter of the late Willie and Lillie (Backus) Simmons. Ruth worked at Allstate Ins. Co. Mrs. Beasley is survived by her two sons, Willie Simmons and Rogers Beasley and wife, Kim, two grandchildren Jocelyn Simmons Davis and husband Dante and Rogers Beasley III, her brother Rev. Walter Simmons and wife, Priscilla. She was predeceased by her sister, Eloise Moses and brother Clayton Simmons. The Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, 764 Farmington Avenue, New Britain, CT has charge of arrangements. Burial was private. www.shakerfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Cresenzi, Frances Marie



Frances Marie Cresenzi, 89, of Farmington, widow of John Cresenzi, the love of her life, passed away Friday, January 21st, 2022. Born August 4th, 1932 in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Coradino and Elena (Buccelli) Morelli. Prior to retiring, she was employed for over 25 years at Curtis 1000 as an Order Editor. Frances was a long-time communicant at the Church of St. Patrick in Farmington. She greatly enjoyed gardening, action movies and spending time with her family. She was a beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend. She touched everyone with her sweet demeanor and sparkle in her eye. She will be forever missed. Frances is survived by her devoted and loving daughter, Elena Rose Cresenzi of Farmington, her sister, Theresa Morelli of Manchester and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Rt. 4, Unionville TODAY from 9:00-10:30am. Funeral procession from The Ahern Funeral Home will be at 10:30am followed by the Funeral Liturgy in the Church of St. Patrick, 110 Main St., Farmington at 11:00am. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Farmington. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Building Fund at the Church of St. Patrick, 110 Main St., Farmington. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

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Marjorie , Carella M



75 of Hartford,Ct entered into eternal rest on January 23,2022 after a long battle with cancer .“Love” is what her granddaughter called her but to everyone else she was “Margie”. Marge was a long time resident of South Windsor where she grew up and raised her four children. Marge always enjoyed reading and watching movies especially the Twilight series and the Hallmark channel with her grandchildren.She was a fantastic cook yet loved to go out to dinner with her family .Predeceased by her two sisters Martha Jorgensen and Barbara Quagliaroli, she also leaves her behind her four daughters ,Yvonne Wilczawski and husband Paul of Amston, Kimberly and Roy Mcbrien of Hartford,Falls Village ,Dawn Falcon and husband Todd of Stafford,Cheryl Carella and Ed Dellaripa of Vernon also her eight grandchildren,Janice,Nicole,Joey,Adrian,Chan ell,Veronica,Izabella,Victoria, Jose whom was like a grandson.Five great grandchildren,Elenor,Ruby,Vivian, Sophia,and Ariana along with many beloved nieces and nephews. Service and celebration of life will be held privately. Expressions of sympathy in the form of memorial donations can me made to the Connecticut Human Society .

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Michaud, Andrew Paul



Andrew Paul Michaud, 65, of Plainville, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Monday, January 24, 2022. He was the devoted husband and best friend of Patricia (Baker), with whom he shared 37 years of marriage. A lifelong resident of Plainville, Andy was one of two sons to the late Paul and Frances (Kramer) Michaud, and a graduate of Plainville High School. He and Pat settled in his hometown where they raised their daughter, Emily, and where Andy was a friendly and familiar face around town as a mail carrier for the USPS, from where he retired in 2016. He had a longtime passion for photography, leaving many friends and family with priceless portraits, and was a lover of all animals, never leaving the house without treats for all of the four-legged friends on his mail route. He enjoyed various types of music, especially Todd Rundgren, Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa, traveled near and far to attend concerts of his favorite artists, happily winning a signed guitar at a recent concert, and took great pride in his ever-growing record collection. He enjoyed playing golf with his buddies and his brother, a trait he inherited from his Dad, and was a fan of the Boston Red Sox, the Boston Bruins and the NY Giants. A kind and gentle soul, he will be missed dearly. In addition to his wife, Pat, he leaves his daughter Emily, who he was so proud of and loved more than life itself; his beloved brother Patrick Michaud, his wife Rose, and their daughters, Jennifer and Sarah (A.J.); his sister-in-law, Carol Quinn and her sons, Chip (Laurie) and Patrick; his brother-in-law, Ken Baker, his wife Marcia, their daughter Meg and her children Ethan and Sophie; and his beloved pets, his dog Sam and cats Kali and Juni. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his in-laws, Russ and Ruth Baker and many aunts and uncles, including his Uncle Sam, with whom he shared a mutual love for sports. Andy’s love for animals may be remembered with contributions to Plainville P.A.W.S. (Partners of the Animals Welfare Society) c/o the Plainville Animal Control, 19 Neal CT., Plainville, CT 06062. A celebration of Andy’s life will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Family and friends may gather one hour prior, from 10-11 a.m. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit Andy’s tribute page at www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com



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OBITUARIES

Schoolnick, Robert Bruce



Of Bristol CT
Age 67 Born 12/7/1955 Died 1/18/2022
Surviving: Ma/Nana Fran, daughter, sons, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, girlfriend, martial arts family and friends
Predeceased: Grandparents, mother, father, 1 brother and 1 sister

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Gionfriddo, Carmelo

Updated service information for Mr. Carmelo Gionfriddo, of New Britain, who passed away on January 18, 2022. Due to inclement weather, a period of visitation will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at New Britain Memorial & Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Avenue, New Britain from 9:00-11:00am. A funeral home prayer service will be held at 11:00am. Interment services are to follow at St. Mary Cemetery, Stanley Street, New Britain. For an extended obituary and online memorial, please visit www.NewBritainSagarino.com.

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CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Senate GOP pushes tougher penalties for selling fentanyl

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Prompted by the death of a 13-year-old boy in Hartford, Senate Republicans are calling for increased penalties for selling fentanyl, a particularly lethal substance that is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin.

The lawmakers are offering a three-pronged plan that also calls for establishing guidelines to place Narcan in public schools in order to revive students who have overdosed. They are also seeking to create a public awareness campaign about the dangers of the drug by using money from the \$300 million opioid settlement in Connecticut.

“The opioid epidemic is a public health and public safety crisis in Connecticut,” said Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford. “Fentanyl is a deadly poison, and it must be treated as such.”

Concern about the fentanyl crisis was renewed by the stunning death of a seventh-grader at the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford. Lawmakers also noted the recent death of Lauren Smith-Fields, a 23-year-old Bridgeport woman whose death was not immediately reported to her family. An autopsy by the chief state medical examiner’s office said that her death was caused by “acute intoxication due to the combined effects of fentanyl, promethazine, hydroxyzine and alcohol.”

Sen. John Kissel, the ranking senator on

the legislature’s judiciary committee, and others said Republican lawmakers were offering a multifaceted package of proposals and not simply resorting only to a tough-on-crime approach.

“To those folks who say, ‘Oh, you Republicans, you only say increase penalties and mandatory minimums,’” Kissel said. “In this instance, this is a deadly serious situation. And yes, we’re proposing that we increase penalties for fentanyl.”

Kissel added, “We believe in second chances. This isn’t about the victim. This isn’t about the users. This is about the sellers.”

The criminal penalties need to be increased, he said, because one bag of fentanyl could have the potency of 50 bags of heroin.

The precise penalties were not disclosed Thursday as Kissel said the issue needs to be discussed with attorneys and fellow lawmakers in advance of the legislative session that starts on Feb. 9. The issue would then be subject to public hearings and votes before the session ends on May 4.

Senators also said they will work to establish guidance for allowing school districts to decide whether they should keep Narcan — a medication that quickly reverses overdoses — in the school buildings. After the incident in Hartford, officials announced that all public schools in the city will have access to Narcan, and school employees are being trained in the proper use of the life-saving reversal drug.

Turn to Fentanyl, Page 2



Ahead of a storm forecasted to drop up to 18 inches of snow in the area beginning Friday evening, Brian Christopher buys a snow shovel outside O.L Willard’s Lumber and Hardware store in Willimantic. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Saturday snowstorm may drop up to 2 feet of snow

Winter storm watch issued for most of state

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A foot of snow may fall in much of Connecticut Saturday, with less falling in the west but up to twice as much in the east.

“We’re in trouble,” said Gary Lessor, chief meteorologist with Western Connecticut State University’s weather center, when new snow estimates popped up on his computer screen Thursday. “This is going

to be a big storm. You’re looking at a foot, a foot and a half with this.”

Lessor suggested people start getting ready now.

“You can’t get caught unprepared,” he said.

When will the storm hit?

The storm will arrive Friday night into Saturday, although we might get a mere taste of what’s to come Friday afternoon with snow showers or flurries, Lessor said. Friday’s high temperature will be 30-35 degrees.

The snow will come from a cold front

that will move in off the coast overnight Friday and stall, he said. A winter storm watch will be in effect late Friday night through Saturday evening everywhere but Hartford and Litchfield counties.

How much snow will we get?

The central part of the state should get about a foot of snow, and eastern Connecticut could see 1-2 feet, Lessor said Thursday afternoon. He expects 5-10 inches in the west.

Turn to Snow, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Sub-variant of omicron found in Fairfield Co.

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

A newly identified sub-variant of omicron, BA.2, was first reported in Connecticut earlier this week. Slightly different from the BA.1 lineage of omicron that has driven the most recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, BA.2 is still somewhat unknown to scientists.

Here’s what is known about it so far — and what experts say about how concerned we should be:

When did BA.2 appear in Connecticut?

On Tuesday, Nathan Grubaugh, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health who runs a lab tracking the spread of COVID-19 variants in Connecticut, announced on Twitter that his lab had detected the first case of BA.2 in the state. The sub-variant was detected in a sample collected from Fairfield County on Jan. 8.

How concerned should we be about BA.2?

Dr. Peter Hotez, a vaccine scientist at the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, said that at this point he is not overly concerned about BA.2, which has already appeared in the Houston region where he lives.

“I tend to not get too exercised about variants until they really start to accelerate — we watch them all, but it’s hard to know whether this one is going to be game-changing or not,” he said during a press call organized by Hartford Health-Care on Thursday.

Some variants — such as beta or lambda — circulate around but never catch on, unlike variants such as delta and omicron, Hotez said.

“We’ll just have to watch this closely, but right now I’m more alarmed about what might be brewing out there in lower-middle-income countries than this BA.2 one specifically,” he said.

How does BA.2 differ from original omicron variant?

As a sub-variant of omicron, BA.2 is “structurally quite similar to omicron,” said Dr. David Banach, an epidemiologist at UConn Health.

Turn to Variant, Page 2

Cop wins arbitration decision after criminal charge, firing

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — State labor officials have ordered East Hartford police to reinstate a veteran sergeant who was fired after being arrested on charges he tried to inflate hours for another officer’s private duty road job.

Police did not have just cause to terminate Sgt. Ian Allison on Feb. 3, 2021 and he should be returned to duty with back pay, the state Department of Labor’s board of mediation and arbitration ruled on Jan. 14. Allison also has filed a lawsuit seeking compensation for lost overtime and benefits and attorney’s fees.

Police arrested the 21-year department veteran on a charge of attempted second-degree larceny on Oct. 14, 2020, contending that he abused his authority when he told road work supervisors to inflate billable hours on a road construction job that Officer Robert Jones had worked. Jones was arrested on the same charge.

The state panel found insufficient evidence to prove allegations that Allison told Jones he would be paid starting at 7 a.m. even though Jones arrived at the job several hours later. The rate for a private duty job at the time was \$60.30 an hour, police have said. Officers were paid five hours for jobs that were up to five hours long and eight hours for jobs between five and eight hours long.

Police also contended that Allison told site supervisors that hours tacked onto the job on Aug. 3 were a penalty for not booking an officer at the beginning of the work. Allison, however, denied saying he would penalize anyone, and the state panel found that testimony from an MDC construction inspector and other witnesses for the town was “confusing and/or inconsistent.” The panel also found there was confusion and ignorance about requirements for a private duty police officer among police supervisors, MDC and the construction company hired for the job.

Turn to Officer, Page 2

Senators say they were denied full access to federal prison

By Dave Collins
Associated Press

Two U.S. senators said Wednesday that they were denied access to parts of a federal prison in Danbury while trying to examine conditions there in response to correctional officers’ complaints about a staffing shortage and lack of coronavirus precautions.

Concerns about the spread of COVID-19 itself were behind the denial, the federal Bureau of Prisons said.

Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, both Connecticut Democrats, visited the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution with labor union leaders and two state lawmakers. Murphy said they were barred from seeing the main women’s facility but were able to see a men’s unit after a “fight” to gain access.

“There was clearly a decision made to try to stop both of us from seeing some of the conditions at this prison,” Murphy said during a news conference after the visit.

“This facility, even during COVID, should be open for inspection by policymakers,” he said. “We need to see it during good times, but we also need to see it during bad times. And if the Bureau of Prisons has decided that U.S. lawmakers are not going to be able to see what is really happening inside these prisons during a crisis, that’s a problem.”

Blumenthal said prison officials rejected, at the last moment Wednesday morning, an itinerary given to the senators ahead of the visit.

“The officials here said we’d love to have you come back when COVID is over,” Blumenthal said. “We came here to see conditions when COVID is the problem. That was the whole point.”

The Bureau of Prisons said in a statement that Murphy and Blumenthal were given a tour of the prison “based on current COVID-19 safety protocols.”

“For health and safety reasons, portions

Turn to Senators, Page 2

CONNECTICUT



Dante Paul Cistulli, who owns Zephyr’s Street Pizza in West Hartford Center, is hosting a series of pop-up events with guest chefs on Wednesdays in February, Cistulli announced on Zephyr Street’s Facebook page. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT**

Zephyr’s Street Pizza hosting pop-up events with guest chefs

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Dante Paul Cistulli, who owns Zephyr’s Street Pizza in West Hartford Center, is hosting a series of pop-up events with guest chefs on Wednesdays in February, Cistulli announced on Zephyr Street’s Facebook page.

Cistulli said the first chef, on Feb. 2, will be Tyler Anderson of Millwright’s in Simsbury, which recently won the statewide Restaurant of the Year award by the Connecticut Restaurant Association.

Anderson will join Cistulli in Zephyr’s Street’s kitchen to make taco platters: chicken, pork or veg, with rice and beans, for \$13.50.

On that day, Cistulli will make a special 16-inch pizza, available whole or in slices, inspired by the Vampiro taco that Anderson makes on his food truck, Ta-Que.

Anderson will be there from 4 p.m. until “when-ever we decide to close,” Cistulli said. “We’ll just keep going. I hope we don’t run out of food,” he said.

All events will start at 4 p.m., with guest chefs making whatever they want, and Cistulli making



Chef Tyler Anderson will be the first guest in the pop-up series. **DENNIS HOENBERGER/SPECIAL TO COURANT COMMUNITY**

pizza.

On Feb. 9, the chef is James Beard-recognized Food Network star Adam Greenberg. On Feb. 23, the chef is Jason Welch. Cistulli said he hasn’t nailed down a Feb. 16 chef yet.

“It’s a small space. They’re all my friends. This is going to be interesting,” Cistulli said. “We want to turn this into something fun, while building some

business in the cold season. We hope to go through the winter doing these.”

Zephyr’s Street is at 968 Farmington Ave., in the rear, facing the Brace Road parking lot. [zstreetpizza.com](#).

West Hartford is also slated to add more pizza offerings to its restaurant lineup. Oath Pizza will open its first Connecticut location in the spring at 67 Memorial Road in Blue

Back Square, the chain announced in a news release. The shop will fill the vacancy where Poke Man used to be.

Oath Pizza opened its flagship location on Nantucket in 2015. It currently has 17 locations, including nine on university campuses.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Senators

from Page 1

of the tour were adjusted by the Warden to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 following an increase in COVID-19 cases,” the statement said.

The bureau did not immediately respond to other questions about correctional officers’ concerns about staffing and coronavirus protocols. A bureau spokesperson said responses were being prepared.

The senators basically were kept away from any areas where inmates were, said Shaun Boylan, a Danbury prison staffer and executive vice president of the local prison staff union, Local 1661 of the American Federation of Government Employees. He said prison officials had no objections to the original tour itinerary until Wednesday morning.

The tour was changed to include mostly empty

areas, including a dining room for men and secure areas just outside the housing units, Boylan said.

The Danbury prison complex houses 1,078 inmates, according to the bureau. Murphy and the local correctional officers’ union say about 40% of the inmates are in isolation or quarantine because of the coronavirus.

The virus has been spreading widely again in federal prisons across the country. The Bureau of Prisons says it oversees more than 145,000 inmates in institutions and community-based facilities.

Of the total inmates, 8,074 currently are currently infected with the coronavirus and more than 1,640 of the 36,000 staff members are infected, according to bureau data.

Staffing levels and virus infections at prisons nationwide have been among numerous concerns under outgoing bureau Director Michael Carva-

jal, whose departure was revealed earlier this month.

Boylan said a staffing shortage in Danbury is requiring many correctional officers to work double shifts. Officers are exhausted, morale is low and conditions are dangerous, he said.

Staffing problems also are resulting in officers working in several units, which may be helping to spread the virus, Boylan said. And it is taking too long — two days — to receive virus testing results for staff, he said.

“We don’t have the staff to stop the spread of coronavirus here because they’re using the shortened numbers of staff, and they’re going all over the place,” Boylan said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Boylan said there are just over 80 correctional officers at Danbury, compared with 115 two years ago and 72 officers short of meeting the Bureau of Prisons’

own staffing guidelines. While the bureau’s goal is one officer per prison unit, the Danbury staff to unit ratio is 1 to 3, he said. Thirteen officers are out of work because of the virus, he said.

The bureau has said Danbury is more than 90% staffed, but the union doesn’t agree with that number.

Blumenthal said he will be asking the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate staffing at Danbury and other federal prisons.

Murphy, Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, also a Connecticut Democrat, earlier this month called for a federal investigation of the Danbury prison complex after saying they received reports of officials not following coronavirus protocols.

Bureau of Prisons officials have previously said they follow the COVID-19 guidelines of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Officer

from Page 1

Both Allison and Jones were granted accelerated rehabilitation on the larceny charges, which were subsequently dismissed, but the state panel said the court actions were not considered in its decision to reinstate Allison. Jones retired on Dec. 1, 2020.

Asked Wednesday if Allison would be reinstated, Deputy Police Chief Josh Litwin said the town “is now reviewing the matter with consideration of all state mandated requirements, including certification by the Connecticut State Police Officer Standards and Training Council.”

Allison’s attorney, Michael Georgetti, said

Allison is not back on duty, “although he is prepared to return when requested by the town.”

“Sgt. Alison remains POST certified,” Georgetti said. “The town may attempt to interfere with the certification as it appears to have done in at least one other case. If for any reason he is not returned to full employment with full payment

of all monetary and other damages caused by the wrongful arrest, the lawsuit would allow those damages to be recovered.”

Allison’s legal expenses included \$26,800 just for defending against the criminal charges, the lawsuit says.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Snow

from Page 3

For days, Lessor and other meteorologists had been looking at models that gave widely disparate forecasts in terms of snowfall, with the European one predicting much more snow and the U.S. calling for less.

How long will it snow?

It will snow all day Saturday, wrapping up by early Sunday morning, Lessor said, calling it a “long-duration event.”

“I would say the worst of this storm will be from 4 a.m. Saturday to midnight,” he said — a 20-hour period that might signal the need for some to buy groceries.

“My wife’s already at the store,” Lessor said.

Will it be a windy storm?

Yes, Lessor said. Peak gusts will reach 30-40 mph inland, and 40-55 mph along the shore.

He and AccuWeather meteorologists said the strong winds could lead to power outages. It also may cause drifting snow and poor visibility for drivers.

“Travel could be very difficult to impossible,” the National Weather Service

warned in an alert. “Strong winds could cause tree damage.”

Are power companies and plow truck drivers ready?

Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday that he had been in touch with Ever-source Energy to ensure that the electric company was prepared for the approaching storm.

“We’ve had outages before,” he said. “I want to make sure we’re right ahead of the curve to get these cleaned up. It’s 10 degrees outside. People can’t go without their power, can’t go without their electricity.”

As far as plowing is concerned, “DOT’s ready,” Lamont said, though he added, “You’re more ready for 8 inches than you are for 18 inches.”

What kind of snow will fall?

“Light and fluffy, no disagreement” among meteorologists, Lessor said.

Courant Staff Writer Eliza Fawcett contributed to this report.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Variant

from Page 1

On Twitter, Grubaugh noted that while BA.1 (the original lineage of omicron) and BA.2 share number of mutations, BA.2 brings a slew of its own unique mutations as well. In fact, he said, the two lineages are almost as divergent as the delta and alpha variants of COVID-19.

How well can BA.2 be detected?

While BA.1 and BA.2 are fairly similar, Banach said, BA.2 lacks a specific characteristic that made BA.1 easier to distinguish from other COVID-19 variants, such as delta and alpha. It may be harder to distinguish between cases of BA.1 and BA.2, but that doesn’t mean that cases of BA.2 aren’t detectable.

“It’s getting this term ‘stealth variant,’ and there’s confusion because people think that means that it can’t be detected using our current PCR’s, but that’s not the case,” he said. “It can be detected.”

The sub-variant has already been detected abroad — including in India, Denmark and Britain — and has given rise to a smattering of cases in the United States. BA.2 appears the most widespread in Denmark, a country with a robust

genome-sequencing infrastructure.

Are we headed for another surge?

Medical experts say it’s too soon to know for certain how quickly BA.2 could spread in the United States — but that the sub-variant may not be as deadly or disruptive as BA.1.

“We haven’t seen data so far to expect this is going to be associated with more infectiousness or more severe illness or less response to vaccine-induced immunity, but I think it’s still too early to make definitive conclusions,” Banach said.

On Twitter, Grubaugh noted that the sub-variant became the dominant lineage of COVID-19 in Denmark within a month, and said he anticipates that it will eventually become the dominant lineage in the United States.

But BA.2 may not drive a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, he said, noting that “there is a lot of recent population immunity from the BA.1 wave, and hopefully not as many susceptible people to infect.”

Courant staff writer Alex Puterman contributed to this report.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Fentanyl

from Page 1

After the student overdosed, police and drug-detecting dogs searched the magnet school before finding nearly 40 small bags of fentanyl — in multiple locations — that was in powder form and packaged for sales on the street. Investigators with a search warrant later found 100 bags in the boy’s bedroom that were packaged in similar fashion.

The boy’s death has captured the attention of city officials, lawmakers, and Gov. Ned Lamont. Lamont recently said he would consider the idea of stocking Narcan at schools.

“We know we made Narcan more widely available than ever before,” Lamont said. “I know that all our first responders have access to Narcan. I know they’re trained in Narcan. But if the public health people tell me Narcan at the nurse’s office at the school can save lives, that’s something we’re going to do.”

Lamont’s spokesman, Anthony Anthony, said Thursday that the governor is open to further discussions on the issue.

“In 2019, Gov. Lamont signed into law stiff penalties against people illegally dealing fentanyl,” Anthony said. “As Gov. Lamont has repeatedly said before, his

door is always open for good, constructive, and smart proposals. However, what we do not want to do is double up our resources in one place, instead spreading them around for other preventive measures.”

Statewide, lawmakers said that 1,374 people died in 2020 in Connecticut from accidental drug overdoses — and fentanyl was involved in 84% of them.

When the final numbers are released for 2021, there could be nearly 1,500 overdose deaths in Connecticut, officials said.

Despite the rise in fatal overdoses overall, children are rarely in that group. Of the more than 7,500 people who died from drug overdoses in Connecticut between 2015 and Dec. 9, 2021, only one was younger than 14, officials said. Slightly more than 6% were between 15 and 24.

The state education department will be conducting a survey to learn how many school nurses currently have access to Narcan, the brand name for naloxone, a powerful medication that can reverse opioid overdoses. In a similar survey in 2019, 48% of public school nurses in the survey responded that they had access to the drug.

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

CONNECTICUT

Hartford HealthCare opens urgent care center in Milford

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Hartford HealthCare’s urgent care network on Friday opened a center in Milford, extending its presence to Connecticut’s shoreline.

The Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care in the Milford Marketplace on Boston Post Road increases its total number of centers in Connecticut to 20.

“Ensuring Connecticut residents have easy access to care when and where they need it is key to ensuring the health of the region,” said Eric Walsh, medical

director, Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care.

The urgent care center will treat illnesses and injuries that aren’t life-threatening, provide X-ray service and offer COVID-19 evaluation and testing. Those seeking care in the Milford area or any of the urgent care centers may walk in or reserve a place and pre-register online.

Hartford HealthCare describes its GoHealth Urgent Care centers as an “on-demand consumer-centric care platform that serves as the digital and physical front door” to its health care system.

GoHealth operates more than 171 on-demand care centers in

the U.S., including the New York metropolitan area. Hartford Healthcare employs 33,000 health care workers and posted operating revenue of \$4.9 billion in 2021.

Hartford HealthCare is aggressively extending its reach across Connecticut. Last week, it announced with Quinnipiac University a \$5 million, five-year partnership to bolster the health care workforce battered by COVID-19 and attract more workers to keep up with demand.

The hospital system and university will develop at Quinnipiac’s North Haven campus programs and educational and workforce opportunities in the schools of

medicine, nursing and health sciences.

Over the last decade, Hartford Healthcare has grown into a massive statewide health system with a workforce of 33,000 as it collected medical practices and hospitals across Connecticut.

It acquired the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain in 2011, Backus Hospital in Norwich in 2013 and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington in 2018.

In 2019, it acquired St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, challenging Yale New Haven Health System in southwest Connecticut. In recent years Hart-

ford HealthCare also added the Southington Surgery Center, other Hartford and Waterford surgery centers, as well as Middlesex Cardiology and Soundview Medical Associates

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center recently filed suit against Hartford HealthCare and its subsidiaries, claiming that it is trying to create a monopoly on hospital services by acquiring physician networks, particularly cardiologists, and demanding that they refer their patients only to Hartford HealthCare.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Police: Two dead after gunshots, fire in New London

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Two people are dead and a police officer is injured after a shooting and a house fire in New London Wednesday night, police said.

A report of shots fired at Granite and Williams streets came in shortly before 8 p.m., police said, and while officers were on their way to the scene they learned about a house fire nearby at 48 Granite St. As soon as police arrived, they began getting people out of the multi-family house, as did firefighters.

Two fire victims were found in the home, one of whom was pronounced dead at the scene, police said. A second was taken to Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, where the person was pronounced dead.

A police officer also was taken to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation, police said. The officer has since been discharged.

City investigators are working with the local fire marshal, state police and staff from the New London State’s Attorney’s Office on the investigation.

Police didn’t say whether they believe the report of gunshots is connected to the fire, or whether they suspect either is linked to shots that were fired into a home at Jefferson Avenue and Boulder Drive 45 minutes earlier.

No one was injured in the earlier incident, police said, which happened about a mile from the fire scene.

Anyone with information about that incident is asked to call detective bureau at 860-447-1481 or send an anonymous tip to the New London Tips 411 system by texting NLPDTip, plus the information to Tip411 (847411)

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Cops: 16-year-old under arrest after he fatally stabs man during gas station fight

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A 16-year-old is in custody after police said he fatally stabbed a man during a gas station fight.

Marlon Brathwaite, 42, died after the altercation early Wednesday, police said. The teen has been charged with murder.

According to police, officers were sent to 275 Fairlawn Ave. to help with a medical emergency about 3:15 a.m. They found an unresponsive man sitting in a parked car in the driveway of a home with a stab wound to the upper chest.

The man was later identified as Brathwaite, and police said they learned he was in his own driveway.

Police said they were able to determine that Brathwaite had been stabbed during an altercation at Irving gas station, 1417 East Main St., a little more than a mile away. They obtained video surveillance of the clash, Lt. Ryan Bessette said Thursday.

After more investigation, detectives identified the teen police believe was responsible and took him into custody, he said.

Bessette said he doesn’t know if Brathwaite knew the teen.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.



This office building at 74 Batterson Park Road in Farmington is one of two in the small office park where Pond LLC plans a 199-unit apartment complex. DON STACOM/COURTESY

NYC developer wants to build 199 apartments near Batterson Park

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

FARMINGTON — A developer is looking to build nearly 200 apartments near Batterson Park alongside the Pondview Corporate Center in Farmington, a town where more than 800 other new apartments are already planned.

New York-based Pond LLC is proposing a four-story, 56,000-square-foot apartment complex to join the center’s two office buildings.

Pond View Apartments stands to become the fifth major apartment-construction proposal on the books in Farmington. Theoretically, if developers built all five as planned they would add a total of more than 1,000 apartments in town.

Details about the the Pond View project haven’t come out yet but will be part of the developer’s formal application for zoning approval later this year.

Pond LLC bought the two three-story office buildings at

Pondview Corporate Center in the summer of 2019. The buildings are home to about 20 tenants ranging from insurance agents and financial advisors to medical offices.

Pond LLC paid just under \$20 million for the buildings at 74 and 76 Batterson Park Road, as well as the surrounding 34 acres. Last month, the company applied for a local wetlands approval to add a new building with additional parking, a project that would cover about 3 acres.

“The T-shaped building is to be four stories tall, accommodating 199 units, with a courtyard containing an approximately 2,100-square-foot pool situated along the western face of the building,” according to a report by SLR International, a consultant working on the project.

The original developer who constructed 74 and 76 Batterson Park Road in the 1980s had planned a third building, too.

“Due to changes in market demand, the building was never

constructed, and the current developer has sought a zoning approval to permit the placement of a residential property on the site, which is currently zoned as ‘professional office,’ “ according to SLR’s report.

Pond LLC contends its project would have no impact on a nearly 8-acre wetland nearby. When it began its review last week, the conservation and inland wetlands commission concluded it wouldn’t need a public hearing but did not reach a conclusion. The commission is scheduled to resume work Feb. 1.

As of now, Pond LLC hasn’t filed a site plan nor requested a zone change from the planning and zoning commission. That process will require a public hearing.

Pond LLC is a unit of Sovereign Partners LLC, a real estate investment firm based in a midtown Manhattan office tower. Sovereign Managing Partner William Gentile, who is listed as the Pond LLC contact on the wetlands application, could not be reached

for comment Wednesday.

Among the other large-scale Farmington apartment projects in the planning stage are the conversion of the former Hartford Marriott Farmington into 224 one- and two-bedroom units. That property went through a sale last fall, but town officials believe the new developer is ready to resume work.

Kaoud Real Estate Development LLC plans to build 190 apartments around the site of the McCallum Building on Route 4. A third developer, Metro Realty, has approval to build up to 146 apartments across Route 4 from the UConn Health campus, but neighbors have blocked that with a pending lawsuit.

A fourth developer holds municipal approval to construct 268 apartments in the town’s Unionville section, but that project hasn’t advanced in several years.

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com.

Some lawmakers outline state’s mental health crisis as 2022 legislative priority

Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

With nearly 27% of adults in Connecticut reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression during the pandemic, the Senate Republican minority identified mental health Wednesday as legislative a priority in 2022.

Holding little more than one third of the seats in the Senate, the GOP is hardly in a position to drive the agenda, but a Democratic co-chair of the Public Health Committee welcomed the Republican push.

An 11-page paper issued by the Republicans was less of a legislative proposal and more of an overview of a widely acknowledged problem and outline of possible approaches to legislation yet to be drafted.

They offered four broad bullet points:

- Increase access to mental health care.
- Support the mental health workforce.
- Address the “youth mental health crisis”; includes a social media impact study.
- Improve screening and support for maternal mental health.

Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly, R-Stratford, had no estimate of the spending increase that would

be required to address the needs. The non-partisan Office of Financial Analysis cannot estimate cost without fully drafted legislation.

“What we’re going to be doing is putting together the bills, putting them through OFA, get those fiscal notes, and we’ll see what the cost is,” Kelly said.

Coming exactly two weeks before the start of the 2022 legislative session and release of Gov. Ned Lamont’s proposed adjustments to the second year of the biennial budget, the news conference served politics as well as policy.

“I’m the leader of the Republican caucus,” Kelly said. “I think the Republican Party has good ideas. I think we’re putting forward alternatives to what the majority is doing. I think we’re demonstrating a better way today ... on mental health.”

The GOP was asserting a measure of ownership on the issue in an election year while acknowledging that addressing mental health rarely has been a partisan issue in the General Assembly, and Republicans will need “friends” for passage.

State Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D-Westport, the co-chairman of the Public Health Committee, said he saw nothing groundbreaking in the GOP outline.

“There really wasn’t anything on their list that isn’t an idea already before our committee, the children’s committee or the insurance committee,” Steinberg said.

Steinberg said that was not a criticism. The GOP-supported push is constructive and only can be helpful, he said.

State Sen. Heather Somers, R-Groton, the ranking Republican on the Public Health Committee, said she and Steinberg already have talked about some of the GOP ideas.

Somers said the needs are many and immediate.

“We had a mental health crisis here in the state of Connecticut before COVID reared its ugly head,” Somers said. “We have a disjointed, disconnected system of care. There’s no continuum of care. People search for days to try to find help.”

The issues are financial but also turn on staffing shortages that require more than money.

The nonprofit providers that are a central element of outpatient mental health care are suffering from low Medicaid reimbursement rates that make their salaries uncompetitive, costing them staff, said Michael Patota, the president and chief executive officer of The Child & Family Guidance

Center in Bridgeport.

Asked if staffing shortages or resources were his biggest challenge, Patota said, “Many of our staff are leaving to go to higher-paid positions. So in my mind, they’re inseparable.”


The state has hundreds of vacant positions that are funded but go unfilled for an absence of qualified applicants.

Somers said one partial solution would be to allow HUSKY, the state Medicaid program for children, to reimbursement treatment by social workers who have master’s degrees but who have not yet qualified as licensed clinical social workers.

Some private insurers will reimburse for care by master’s-degree staff, so long as they are under the supervision of a licensed clinician, Somers said.

Antonia Edwards, who has complained of being unable to find care for a troubled granddaughter who killed her grandson nearly two years ago, said the state must act.

“My grandson died on my watch because there was no services available or due to the racial disparities and implicit biases,” said Edwards, who is Black. “We were discriminated against from getting services.”



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 391 N. Frontage Rd. New London, CT 06320 to satisfy a lien on February 10, 2022 at approx. 2:30 pm at www.storage-treasures.com.

Cube: 1527 - Denver Barnett - Life time homes,
Cube: 3070 - Kenneth Green,
Cube: 4150 - Lexus Gordon.
1/27, 1/28/2022 7132109

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lorraine B. Fredrickson, AKA Lorraine Bouton Fredrickson (21-0785)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 25, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
William Arthur Fredrickson, 79 Wrights Pond Rd., Westbrook, CT 06498

1/28/22 7136830

LEGAL NOTICE
For January 2022 Collection

Office of the Tax Collector
323 Route 81, Killingworth, CT 06419
Phone 860-663-1765 ext. 508 /
Fax 860-663-4050

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Killingworth, that the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2020, is due and payable on January 1, 2022. Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax bills are also due on January 1, 2022, in one installment.

If not paid on or before February 1, 2022, the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at a rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2% for each month or fraction thereof) dating back to the original due date of the bill. Two months of interest will be due on February 2, 2022. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 is applicable to each delinquent tax bill.

You may pay by mail. Checks should be made payable to: Tax Collector. Mail postmarked on or before February 1, 2022 will be considered an on time payment. (US Postal Service postmark only) If you would like a receipt returned to you, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. You may also leave payments in the dropbox located next to the main door at Town Hall or pay online at www.townofkillingworth.com.

As a matter of law, the taxpayer is liable to the town for the tax installment(s) as they become due and payable. Liability is not created by, nor dependent upon, receipt of a tax bill. Therefore, failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the requirement to pay the statutorily required interest when a payment is late.

Michele B. Nuhn, CCMO, CCMO
Tax Collector
12/28, 01/07, 01/28/21 7080822

NOTICE OF DECISIONS
MIDDLETOWN INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2022

Approved a three-year extension of Public Works Permit 16-31 granted February 1, 2017 for specific activities at Butternut Hollow. Applicant/agent Public Works Department Permit NO. 16-31

Joseph Carta, Chairman
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
1/28/2022 7135292

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MIDDLETOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
FEBRUARY 3, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO OR AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

Request for a variance of Section 21.02 for the minimum front yard requirement to construct an extension of a covered porch and a new dining room at 35 Fairview Avenue. Applicant/agent Ann C. Burke V2022-1

Steven Kovach, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
1/21, 1/28/2022 7128893

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 201 Lake Ave Bristol CT 06010 to satisfy a lien on February 10th, 2022 at approx. 1:00pm at the following site [www.storage-treasures.com]
Cube #154 John Jackson; Cube #288 Ty Graves; Cube #320 William Bonito; Cube #426 Donna Callahan; Cube #493 Michael Veillette.
1/27/22 & 1/28/22 7130351

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RAJINDER KUMAR SIDANA, Late of East Hampton, AKA RAJINDER SIDANA (22-00003)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated January 25, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Debra C. Daniels, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Sanjay Sidana
c/o RAYMOND BOWER, CARTIER & BOWER, LLC, 2488 BOSTON POST ROAD, SUITE 16A, GUILDFORD, CT 06437
1/28/22 7136580

LEGAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the South Fire District of the City of Middletown will be held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing.

For public attendance: Visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85269080347> or Dial In - 646-558-8656
Meeting I.D. 852 6908 0347

The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Commissioner for a term of five years, commencing at 12:00 noon, February 8, 2022, and to transact any and all business which may properly come before said meeting.

Candidate is: Geen Thazhampallath
71 Ribera Lane
Middletown, CT 06457


Deborah Kleckowski, Chairwoman
Board of Fire Commissioners
South Fire District, City of Middletown
1/28/22 7132182

OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Burlington that the second installment of taxes on Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle on the October 1, 2020 Grand List is due and payable on the 1st day of January 2022. If taxes are not paid or postmarked on or before February 1, 2022 such tax will be considered delinquent and subject to interest at a rate of 1 1/2% per month or fraction thereof from due date. Minimum interest \$2.00.

Pay Online: www.burlingtonct.us (fees apply) or Mail Payments to: Town of Burlington, 200 Spielman Hwy, Burlington, CT 06013
Tax Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00AM - 4:00PM Fri 8:00AM - 12:30PM
Closed December 31, 2021

Allison Breithaupt, Tax Collector
Town of Burlington
12/29/21 1/5/22 & 1/28/22 7111854





Housing Counsel SUNDAYS IN Home & Real Estate





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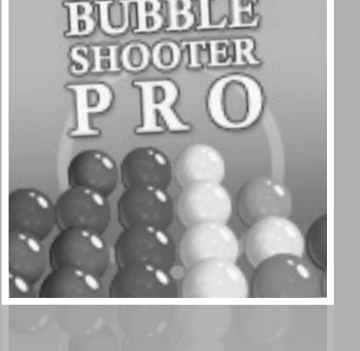






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Johnson turns to ‘unsexy’ side of moviemaking

She’s entering next career phase fully in control as producer

By Mark Olsen
Los Angeles Times

Having launched to stardom as an actor with the “Fifty Shades” trilogy and now garnering acclaim in the awards-season contender “The Lost Daughter,” Dakota Johnson added starring in two films at the recent 2022 Sundance Film Festival. The projects also happen to mark the first finished films produced through her company, TeaTime Pictures.

Writer-director Cooper Raiff’s “Cha Cha Real Smooth,” which recently premiered in the festival’s U.S. dramatic competition, features Johnson as Domino, mother to an autistic teenager (Vanessa Burghardt) and engaged to be married. After she meets 22-year-old Andrew (Raiff), who recently started working as a bar mitzvah party starter, things take a turn.

Then “Am I OK?,” directed by Tig Notaro and Stephanie Allayne from a screenplay by Lauren Pomerantz, premiered the next day, with Johnson starring as Lucy, who finds her longtime friendship with Jane (Sonoya Mizuno) thrown into disarray by Jane’s impending move out of the country for work, as well as Lucy’s realization that she is a lesbian.

For Johnson, 32, bringing the two films to Sundance is a statement of purpose for TeaTime and her grander ambitions for the company.

“As an actress, especially when the film comes out, I’m always finding myself bumping up against something,” she said. “I’m finding either it’s like, ‘Oh, that’s not what I signed on to. That is not the film I wanted to make or that we talked about making.’ Cause for so long, my career has been I prep, and I show up, and I do my work, and then that’s it. ... And you don’t have any say in how it turns out, and your integrity as an artist is kind of stunted.”



Dakota Johnson has debuted the first finished films through her production company. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION 2021

With “Am I OK?,” for the first time she found herself grappling with much more, all the things previously kept from her in the process of making a movie. Which in this case included two COVID-19 shutdowns of 10 days each on a movie intended to have a production that lasted only 20 days.

“Of course there’s things that are stressful in terms of like, ‘OK, how do we do this? How do we get around this problem and save money?’ All the things that are so unsexy about making movies, but then I feel better about it,” said Johnson. “I feel like every single decision that is made can be made with artistic integrity, it can be creative. It can be, ‘OK, how do we make this work but still push the boundaries a little bit, still reach the hearts that need to be reached?’

“It’s not about control. It’s about contribution. It’s about collaboration,” she said. “It’s about really reaching for an idea and sticking to it and maintaining

the integrity of whatever story is trying to be told.”

Johnson launched TeaTime Pictures with partner Ro Donnelly in 2019, and they had already set up a few projects when the pandemic brought the industry to a halt in early 2020.

As things got back into gear eventually, she made four movies in fairly quick order, shooting “The Lost Daughter” in Greece, “Am I OK?” in Los Angeles, “Persuasion” in England and “Cha Cha Real Smooth” in Pittsburgh.

Johnson is at an intriguing crossroads as a performer, in an unusual position where she can play relatively carefree characters trying to figure out their lives in the manner of a rom-com hero, as in “Am I OK?” or 2020’s “The High Note,” while she can also play darker parts reflecting people with more responsibilities grappling with where they have found themselves, as in “Cha Cha Real Smooth” or “The Lost Daughter.” It’s rare

to see someone who’s able to successfully navigate both sides of that maturity divide.

Which brings up the question of where Johnson considers herself in her own life and whether any of her recent roles reflect how she feels about herself.

“No, not at all,” she said. “I don’t feel like any of those roles reflect where I am. Maybe moments in films, retrospectively I may have been there either emotionally or relationship-wise or something, but I don’t feel like there’s a movie that I could go, ‘Oh, that’s me in my life.’

“I don’t know if I would want to do that,” she said. “I think I might want to just live my life.”

Before her breakout role in the “Fifty Shades of Grey” trilogy, Johnson grew up around the business of Hollywood, thanks to her parents, actors Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson. And she brings that background, as well as a series of eclectic career choices, into this new step of producing.

“Growing up on-set and experiencing so many conversations around this job and this industry and the people in it and then having my own career for the last 14 years, I think I just want to make a difference,” Johnson said. “I want to make it better. I want to have a better experience. I want to give more opportunities to amazing people to make things. I want to make more. I have such big dreams, it’s out of control. And I have so many ideas, and I just need to get them out. Even if they’re horrible and Ro’s like, ‘No, not that one.’”

“Dakota is such a creative person, I like to say she’s like the wind. She’s just always moving and dreaming, and she’s pretty ethereal,” said Donnelly. “I definitely am the more realist of the two of us, but I love her big dreams. We definitely balance each other out.”

Johnson plans to continue expanding TeaTime Pictures. Though they have some 25 projects in varying stages of development, the most immediate next project is likely “Daddio,” written and directed by Christy Hall and set to star Johnson and Sean Penn. There is also a series adaptation of Bexy Cameron’s memoir, “Cult Following,” to be adapted and directed by Zoe Lister-Jones for Johnson and her longtime best friend, Riley Keough.

If there was a time when it was a struggle for Johnson to put the notoriety of the “Fifty Shades” movies fully behind her, she now looks to enter the next phase of her career fully under her own control.

“People always have opinions about everything and especially other people, especially famous people, so sometimes it’s just like mosquito noise to me,” Johnson said. “I think that I just want to do what is true to my heart, and I have done. And though things don’t always turn out what they were supposed to be when I’m there as just an actor, the choices I’ve made have always been from my heart and not for any other reason.”

CELEBRITIES

Bieber, Rodrigo top iHeartRadio nods

From news services

It has been a peach of a past year for Justin Bieber, who leads the iHeartRadio Music Awards with nine nominations thanks to his two major collaborative hits of 2021, “Peaches” with Daniel Caesar and Giveon, and “Stay” with The Kid LAROI.

Breakout star Olivia Rodrigo has eight nominations for singles from her debut “drivers license,” while Doja Cat and Giveon have seven nominations for the awards show that will air from Los Angeles on March 22.

The iHeartRadio Music Awards honor the most played artists of the year on their stations and app, and fans can vote in several categories including Best Fan Army, Best Lyrics, Best Cover Song and Best Music Video.

Both of Bieber’s songs are nominated for song of the year, up against songs from Rodrigo, Adele, Ed Sheeran, Silk Sonic, Dua Lipa, Lil Nas X, Ariana Grande and Doja Cat featuring SZA.

Rodrigo is nominated for female artist of the year, alongside Grande, Doja Cat, Dua Lipa and Taylor Swift. Giveon, Rodrigo, The Kid LAROI, Mane-skin and Tate McRae are all nominated for best new pop artist.

The iHeartRadio Music Awards will be aired on Fox as well as iHeartRadio stations and the app.

Driver scores first Cesar nomination: Ahead of the upcoming Oscar nominations — where he could get some shine for his work in “House of Gucci” — Adam Driver is making waves overseas for his first rock opera. The “Girls” star received a best acting nomination for France’s top film honor with his role in Leos Carax’s musical psychological drama “Annette.”



Justin Bieber, seen Sept. 13, leads the iHeartRadio Music Awards with nine nominations. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

The French film academy, the Academie des Arts et Techniques du Cinema, unveiled this year’s nominees for the Cesar Awards on Wednesday. “Annette,” available on Amazon Prime Video, garnered 11 nominations, including best film, best director and best original screenplay. “Annette” marks Driver’s first Cesar Award nomination.

Ruhle replaces Williams on MSNBC: MSNBC announced Thursday that business journalist Stephanie Ruhle will replace Brian Williams on the nightly newscast “The 11th Hour,” and that “Morning Joe” will expand to four hours. Ruhle, who will continue as a senior business analyst across other NBC News programs, had been host of the 9 a.m. Eastern hour on the news network.

Ruhle is expected to keep the format Williams

originated in the 11 p.m. Eastern hour before leaving the network in December, with a review of the day’s news and a centerpiece panel of three experts.

“Morning Joe,” with Joe Scarborough, Mika Brzezinski and Willie Geist as hosts and a rotating panel of guests, currently airs from 6 to 9 a.m. Eastern. It will take over the hour Ruhle is vacating.

The changes are expected to go into effect in a few months; no start date was given.

Jan. 28 birthdays: Actor Alan Alda is 86. Singer Marvin Sapp is 55. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 54. Rapper Rakim is 54. Singer Monifah is 50. Singer Joye Fatone is 45. Actor Angelique Cabral is 43. Singer Nick Carter is 42. Actor Vinny Chhibber is 42. Actor Elijah Wood is 41. Actor Yuri Sardarov is 34. Actor Ariel Winter is 24.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Dad moved in — now, how to get him out?

Dear Amy: I’m asking a question on behalf of my friend, “Brad,” who is in a sticky situation.

Brad’s dad had surgery several weeks ago and is doing well now.

He stayed with Brad while he recuperated for nearly two months — all through the holidays.

The dad has his own home nearby and is a widower.

He has settled into Brad’s home with absolutely no regard for other family members. Brad’s daughter recently packed her bags and moved out because there is no more privacy at the home.

Brad and I actually took the dad to a medical appointment and then took him to his house to see what shape it was in.

The home is organized, cozy and his own, but he is refusing to leave Brad’s house.

He has no concept of privacy. He took over the entire first floor living room, kitchen, guest bathroom, den and dining room.

Do you have any ideas on how to politely and tactfully ask Dad to return to his own home?

— Supportive Friend

Dear Supportive: “Brad’s” father might be nervous about returning to his home post-surgery, and since he seems to have settled into his son’s home so thoroughly, he has no incentive to leave.

If Brad and his dad’s physician are certain his father has recovered and is safe living on his own, Brad could set a quick deadline for his father to return to his own house. This should be conveyed in a neutral,

no-nonsense, friendly and firm fashion: “Dad, it’s time to get you back home so we can all get back into our routines. I’m going to take you back on Friday, so let’s start getting you packed up.”

If his father balks, Brad could suggest that he needs to “give it a try,” and Brad could stay overnight with him there to make sure he can get reacclimated. The son should offer lots of reassurance.

Brad (and you) should help him to get moved in and settled and should prepare a meal and eat with him.

Brad should make sure his father has access to nutritious and easy-to-prepare food.

His father might also benefit from a “life alert”-type system, which can offer a safety net for those living alone.

Dear Amy: When my husband died, one of his friends started calling me. I got a small amount of life insurance and within six months, he asked to borrow some money. I had him sign a note.

He paid monthly until I sold my house and moved to a smaller place. Then he stopped paying and answering my calls.

I wrote off the debt to my new life’s “tuition.”

He called me recently. He said he had to know why I was mad at him.

I said I was hurt that he used me as an ATM, and that he could repair things by repaying me, but not to call me again.

The problem is he still calls. I blocked Facebook, email and my phone to him.

We share some friends,

and they say they have “given” him money.

Most of them are still friends with him. I still get messages from him, as my friends tell him my new cell number. What do I do? I don’t want to lose my social circle.

— The ATM

Dear ATM: You won’t lose your social circle, if you remove this man from being at the center of it.

Your friends have a right to assume the risk of having a friendship with him.

Block his number on your new phone. Don’t comment when others discuss him. He is no longer your problem.

Dear Amy: “Wondering” had a friend whose father died on the friend’s birthday.

My mother passed away on my 10th birthday. The day has been bittersweet for the 52 years since.

I would suggest that wishing me a happy day while qualifying it as the anniversary of my mother’s death is truly unkind.

If you want to talk to me face to face about the mix of my birthday and loss of my mother, there may be a time to do that, but in a card — no thank you.

— Stephanie

Dear Stephanie: This was a very recent loss for “Wondering’s” friend, and thank you for offering your perspective.

Bittersweet, indeed. This sounds very tough.

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Smith, Ellis break down ‘Ali-Frazier’ moment

Wife confronting husband key scene in ‘King Richard’

By Glenn Whipp
Los Angeles Times

It wasn’t supposed to go down in the kitchen. That was the one room in the Los Angeles home doubling as the Williams family Florida residence in “King Richard” that was off-limits to the filmmakers because the appliances and cabinet hardware hadn’t been switched out to reflect the movie’s mid-’90s period.

So naturally, Will Smith and Aunjanue Ellis, the actors playing Richard Williams and Oracene Price, parents of tennis superstars Venus and Serena Williams, went straight to the kitchen when it came time to rehearse a crucial scene in the film. Where else would they go? Think about where people gravitate during parties, where family and friends hold late-night conversations and where loaded confrontations like the one in “King Richard” transpire.

“It is always the kitchen!” Smith says.

“King Richard” takes its title from Williams, the demanding and loving father and tennis coach, the man who wrote a 78-page plan that detailed how his two daughters would become tennis champions. He came up with this blueprint before Venus and Serena were even born, meaning that he needed more than a little help from his wife to realize it.

As Ellis puts it: “He had to convince her to use her body for 18 months to create the vessels for this dream. And she was, ‘OK. Bet.’ They were both crazy. They were co-conspirators in crazy.”

Adds Smith: “There has to be a little bit of crazy, because you have to believe something that there’s no evidence for, and then you



Aunjanue Ellis portrays Oracene Price, Venus and Serena Williams' mother, in “King Richard.” Will Smith also stars as Richard Williams. **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

have to devote your life to something that is not only invisible, but highly unlikely and potentially impossible. But you believe it wholeheartedly because you can’t achieve it if you don’t believe it wholeheartedly. So, yeah, there’s a sliding scale of naiveté to full insanity, and somewhere in there is the sweet spot for dream manifestation.”

But there’s crazy, and then there’s a selfish lack of awareness as to how other people feel. And, in the movie, that led to a confrontation between the parents over Williams’ refusal to consider letting Venus turn pro at age 14. It’s a conversation that takes place 90 minutes into the movie, providing Price with the opportunity to finally call out her husband’s ego and stubbornness in the ways he controlled his family’s life, not to mention his penchant for walking away from failed businesses and children he had with other women.

The scene was shot after production had been halted in March 2020 by a pandemic lockdown, a

break that offered Smith and Ellis time to, as Smith puts it, “marinate in their characters.”

“When it came to this Ali-Frazier moment,” Ellis says, comparing the encounter to the famous heavyweight boxing matches between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali in the 1970s, “we felt we had lived enough with these characters to say how we felt without really even needing a script.”

Smith, who played Ali in the 2001 Michael Mann movie, was asked if he felt like Ali or Frazier in the kitchen scene.

“Well, it depends which fight,” he replies, laughing. (Frazier won their initial bout; Ali prevailed in the two rematches.)

In this defining scene, Price tells her husband in no uncertain terms about the sacrifices she made to help their daughters achieve their tennis dreams. (The couple married in 1980 and divorced in 2002.)

“I carried them inside me and on my back,” Ellis, as Price, says at the beginning of this confrontation. “And

I carried you too, working two shifts so I could put food on your table. I’ve been here dreaming and believing. Just like you. You just don’t want to see me.”

Since they weren’t supposed to shoot in the kitchen, director Reinaldo Marcus Green grabbed a loaf of bread and some peanut butter from the craft services table, along with a carton of orange juice the home’s owners had left in the fridge. “The whole thing was one happy accident,” Green says.

Among its many notable accomplishments, “King Richard” makes a convincing case for Price’s crucial role in the development of the Williams sisters’ careers, both as a parent and as a coach.

“The thing I thought about that day,” Ellis says of the kitchen scene, “was what would Miss Oracene Price want the world to know about her experience? People see her in the stands, but they don’t know her. Nobody knows that she was their coach ... but she was. So I just wanted to speak as well as I could for her and feel OK about it

when I was done.”

Ellis didn’t talk with Price before playing her but did meet her before “King Richard” was released.

“She said, ‘Great job,’” Ellis recalls, laughing. “Just two words. But that was enough for me.”

Smith has been receiving praise too since “King Richard” opened in theaters and premiered on HBO Max on Nov. 19. Though the film’s theatrical box office total has been disappointing (the movie’s worldwide gross is under \$30 million), Smith says he has never experienced a more enthusiastic reaction to a film.

“I had resigned myself in my life that, as an artist, I would never make a film better than ‘The Pursuit of Happyness,’” Smith says, referring to the 2006 drama that co-starred his son Jaden and earned him an Oscar nomination. “That was the high-water mark. I figured I had reached my artistic pinnacle.”

“And then we made ‘King Richard,’ and the amount of people — family, friends, foes, celebrities, politicians, athletes — who have been

inspired to make it a point to get in touch with me to tell me that they enjoyed it has been overwhelming.”

What resonated with all these people? Smith says there are two things: The film’s story of a family triumph, specifically a Black family’s triumph, has been a needed source of uplift during a pandemic that has gone on nearly two years. And people have also commented on the “girl dad” relationships in the movie, what Smith calls a “delicious and uncommon thing to see depicted in cinema.”

“That was one of the things about Richard that I wanted to be able to capture,” Smith says, “that, as wild as he was and as much as he could rage, it was always in defense and protection of his daughters. And they knew it. They knew he would die for them and would kill for them. For all his faults, Richard Williams is one of the greatest girl dads that America has ever seen. To this day, those girls love that man. And that’s as much his legacy as all those tennis titles.”

Drama depicts immigrant story at 2 different places on journey

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

For John Ortiz, “Promised Land” was the first chance he got to be a success without playing a drug dealer.

After decades on screen in “Carlito’s Way,” “Miami Vice” and “Fast & Furious,” Ortiz seemed locked into a cliché: the Latino man who busted heads for cash and worked his way up underground. “Promised Land,” which recently premiered on ABC, gave him something different.

“It goes beyond the one or two types that predominantly covered Latino characters on the screen forever,” the actor said. “To me, what’s been painful about that is not that that doesn’t exist in the world, but that we are so much more than that. This type of scope, with this amount of characters, allows us to explore the story, explore our culture, in a non-monolithic way and to really be nuanced about it.”

Ortiz, 53, stars as Joe Sandoval, the patriarch of a Latino family and magnate of a California vineyard desperate to keep a handle on both his children and his company. The show is bursting with soapy drama, from Sandoval’s ex-wife (Bellamy Young), the sole descendant of the winery’s founder, to his new blended family and five children, all fighting for his legacy.

“You see both the beauty of chasing your dreams, especially when the prizes do come, but also the cost of it,” Ortiz said. “He’s at a point where the mountain he’s built, a beautiful mountain, is not only starting to crumble, but he’s now faced with the fact that he might have become a different person on more than one level, and he’s forced to be confronted with that truth.”



Actor John Ortiz stars as California wine manufacturer Joe Sandoval in “Promised Land.” **DANNY DELGADO/ABC**

Intermingled is a second timeline, about three immigrants who cross the wall and make their way to that same winery, attempting to build a life for themselves.

Creator Matt Lopez, a third-generation American, got the idea at Home Depot, watching a group of day laborers waiting for someone to need them.

“I had this cathartic epiphany moment where their lives seemed so different than mine, but really the only difference is the passage of time. My grandparents and great-grandparents worked in fields, worked in factories,” he said.

“Promised Land,” he said, is the immigrant story at two different places on the journey: “the family empire at the height of its power and the scrappy immigrant story of how the empire came to be.”

Young, who plays Margaret Honeycroft, the winery heir and Joe’s ex-wife who returns with vengeance on her mind, called it a story of the American Dream working.

“You can really put your life on the line and wind up in a castle on the hill,” she said.

In a way, Margaret serves as the villain, setting out to take down Joe and his family. But she’s also trying to reclaim the company she feels is hers.

“She starts again in a whole new industry and becomes a titan, so as much as she’s coming home for revenge ... she’s also coming home a very changed person and able to be in her own skin in her own home. She knows who she is now, and she has nothing left to prove to anyone,” Young, 51, said.

On a whim, Lopez sent a letter to Bruce Springsteen, asking to use one of his songs in the pilot. Springsteen gave him “Born in the U.S.A.”

“Using this very American song, by perhaps the quintessential American recording artist, the idea I liked was taking ‘Born in the U.S.A.’ and reclaiming it on behalf of millions of Americans who are not born in the USA but are reborn in the USA,” Lopez said.

“I think for millions of Americans who immigrate here, they embody the American dream as well if not better than Americans whose families have been here for generations.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

A boss might seem to be picking at you for petty things, and you could feel down on yourself if you see it as important. It may be necessary to consider what you allegedly did wrong. Your friends may be able to give you a perspective.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Figuring out where you stand could seem urgent. You may see the point in keeping up with changing times, but the people affected might not even agree with each other. Consider looking into the words of a relevant authority figure to cut through any confusion. They can give you a place to start.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Unrealistic expectations could be blocking the smoothest path toward a working arrangement for sharing property. You may secretly want to be seen as the powerful provider. Though you may not need to discuss such feelings with the other person, admit them to yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

You may believe that acts of service will get you what you want in one of your close relationships. However, you could wind up feeling resentful if the other person doesn’t pick up on your hints. You might be better off initiating a direct conversation with them.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

A clear vision of a schedule that could solve your problems may come to you now, but you might also see its potential to disrupt the coexistence you currently have with others. As long as you warn people in advance, they could take the upheaval better than you expect!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Your inner child could have something useful to say today. While you don’t have to abandon your responsibilities, you may need to approach them in a way that’s fair to your own limits. Someone else might be holding you to standards that just aren’t realistic for anyone — including you!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

You feel intensely devoted to your work at this time. If you try to talk about it with others, hearing out loud how much you have embraced martyrdom could shock you. You need to think about whether the attitudes you learned while growing up are still working.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

A potential financial opportunity may be hard to see. Remembering your more serious obligations, like rent or family expenses, might help you determine how much you can risk on something uncertain. You could also benefit from taking a look at your motivations.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Getting to the root of a problem could be important for you at this time. However, acknowledging your own contributions to the issue might be complicated. Insight on your past is great if you can achieve it. Talking to someone who isn’t involved can get you an objective perspective.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Some things may be best kept to yourself. While you might have to reveal just enough to keep your life humming along smoothly, you can probably do this without getting into details you think are too private to share. Be careful. Remember that there is only so much you can hold inside.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

You can be a genius today! Your peers believe that you make complex things look easy. However, they might not be aware of everything going on inside your head. Hiding some details from other people may make sense, but don’t let your bravado hide important facts from you!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Feeling pressured by friends who want to know your views could just make you less inclined to give them an answer. You might be certain of your own beliefs. You suspect that they aren’t what others want to hear. Ambiguity can give you space to plan your next moves.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Jan. 28, 1547, England’s King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1813, the novel “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen was first published.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court’s first Jewish member.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance.

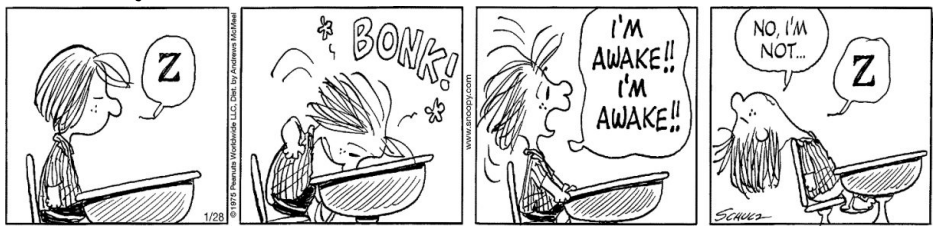
In 1977, actor-comedian Freddie Prinze, 22, co-star of the show “Chico and the Man,” shot and mortally

wounded himself at the Beverly Comstock Hotel.

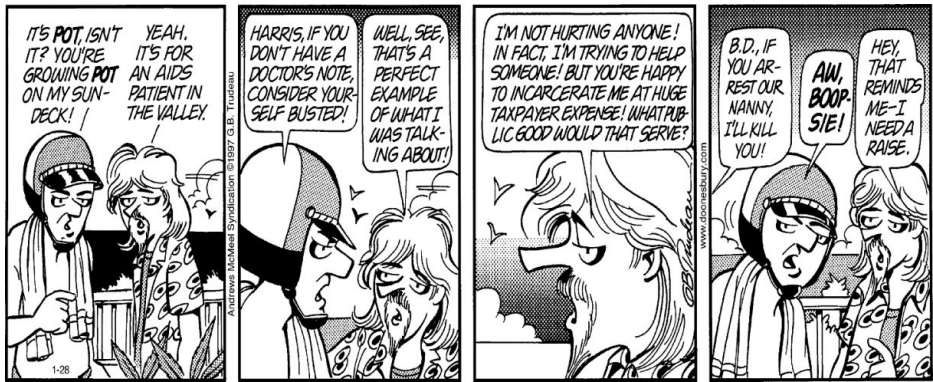
In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including teacher Christa McAuliffe.

In 2017, Serena Williams won her record 23rd Grand Slam singles title, defeating her sister Venus 6-4, 6-4 at the Australian Open.

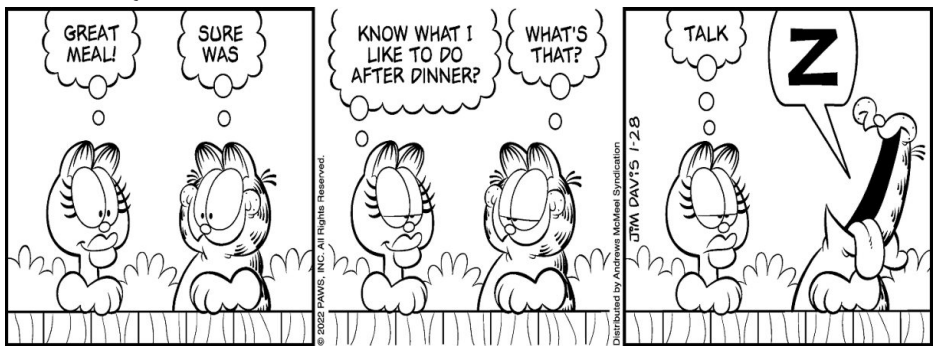
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



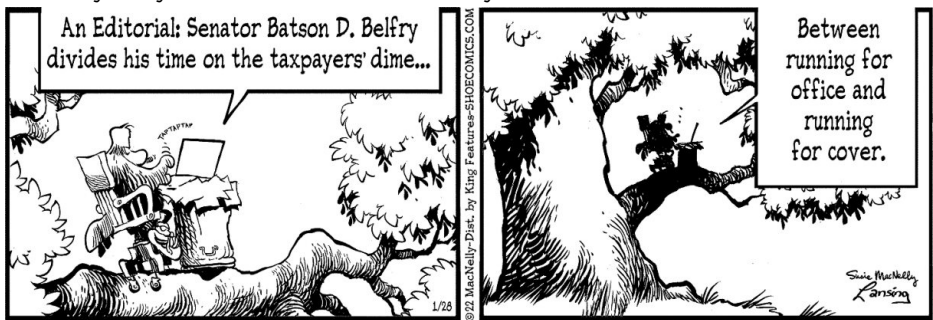
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



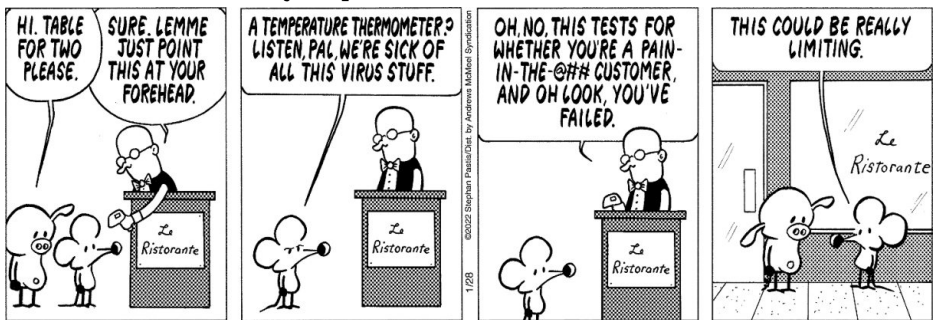
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



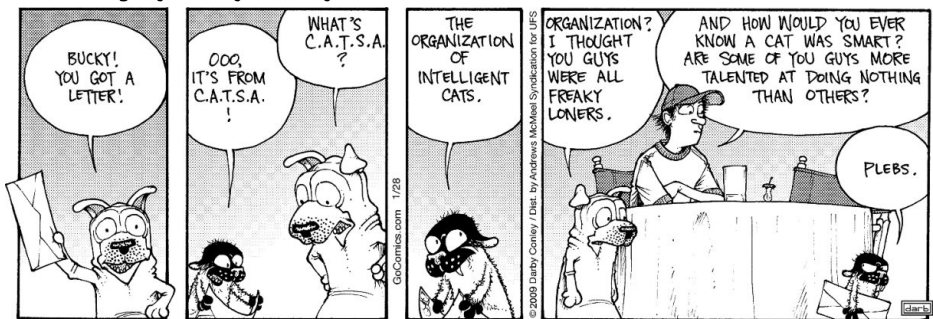
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



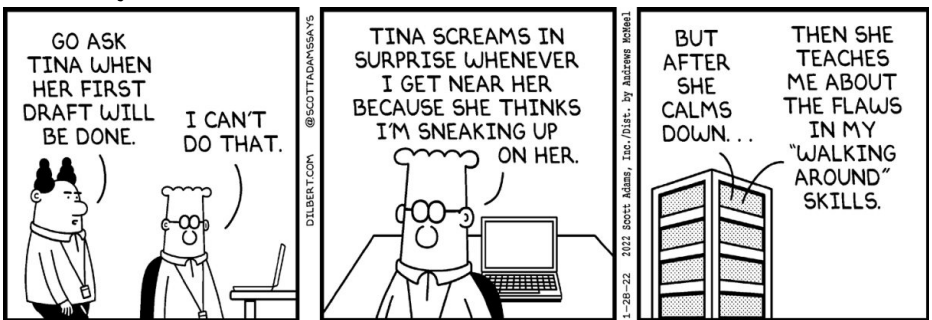
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



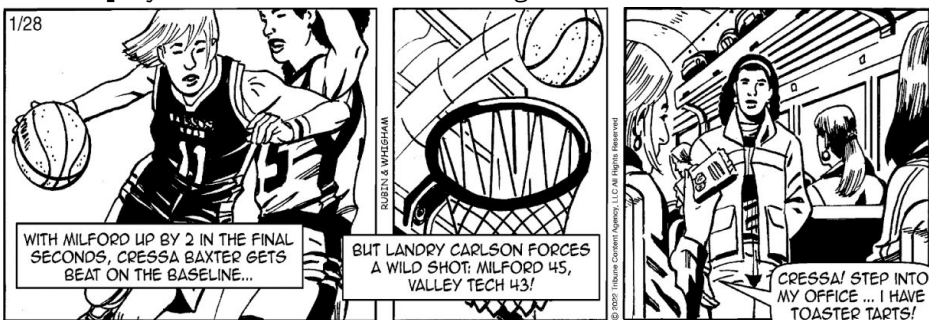
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



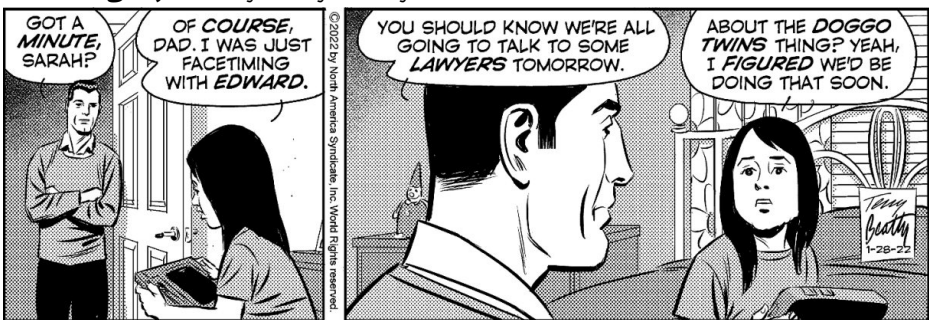
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



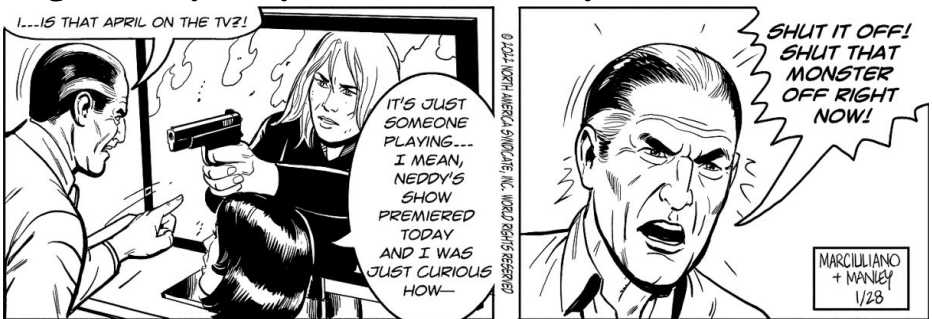
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



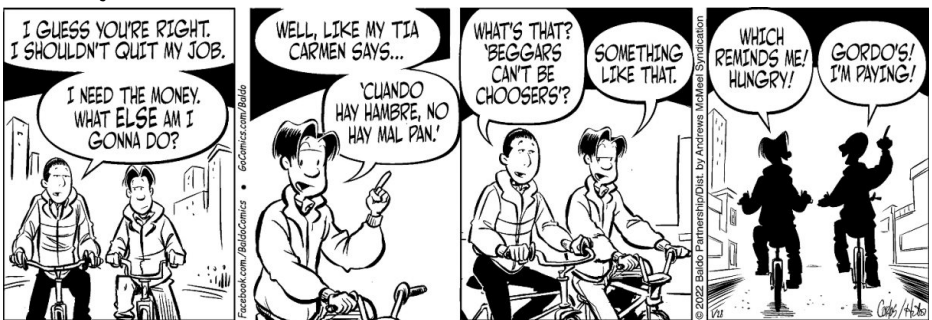
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



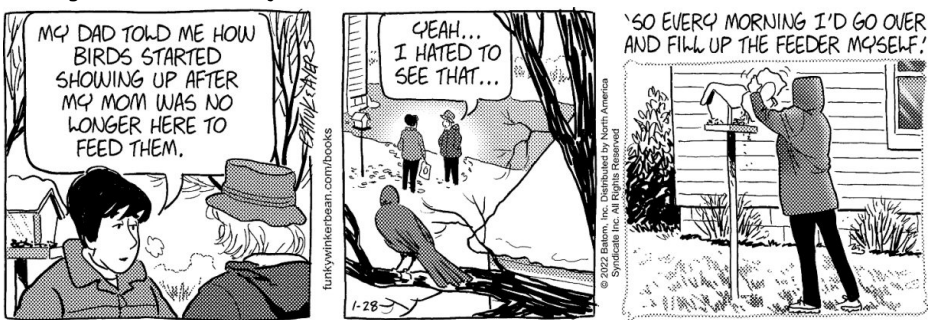
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



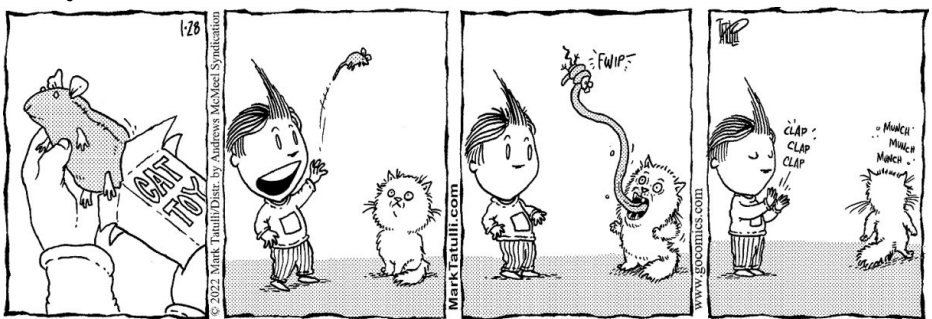
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



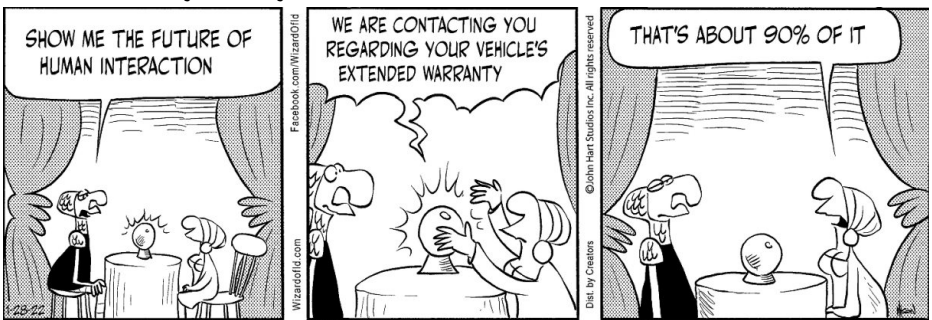
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



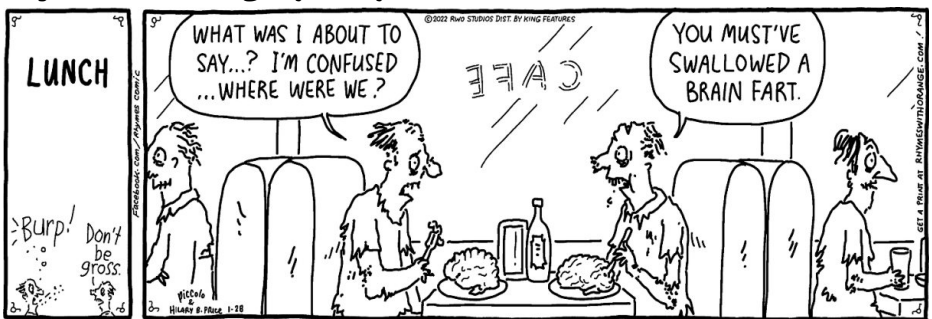
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



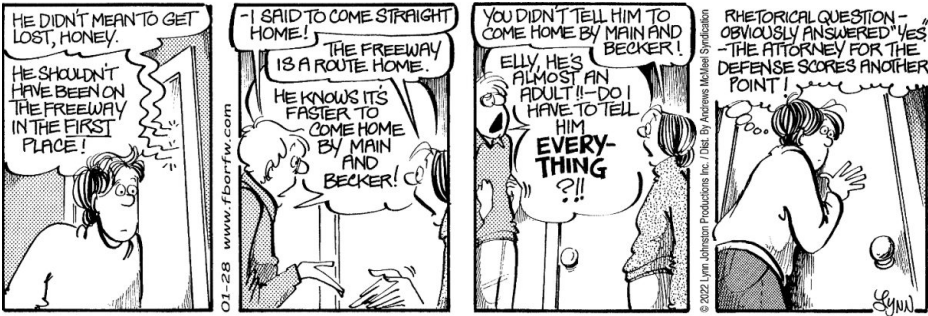
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



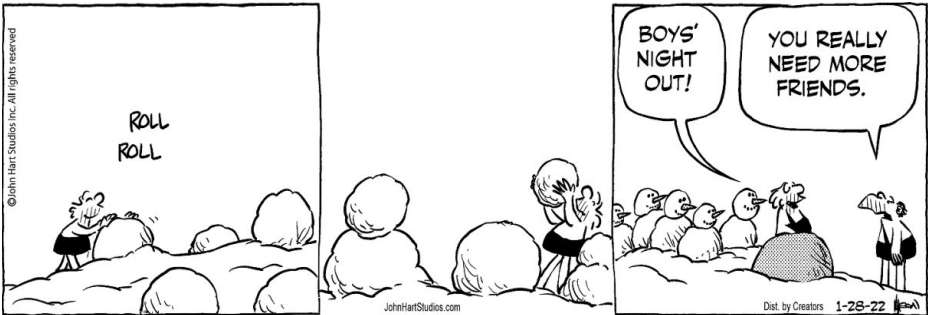
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



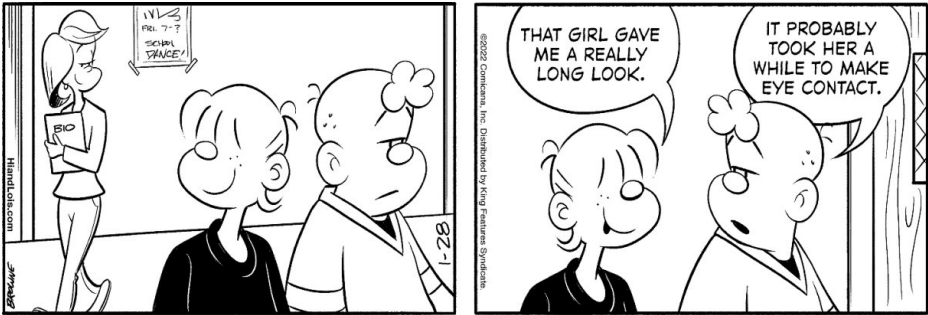
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



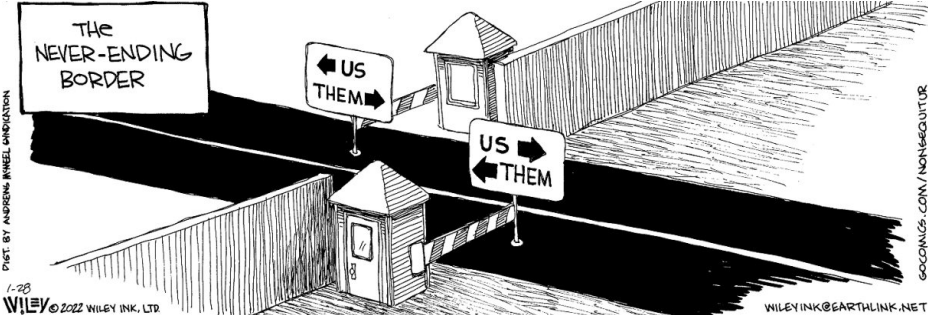
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



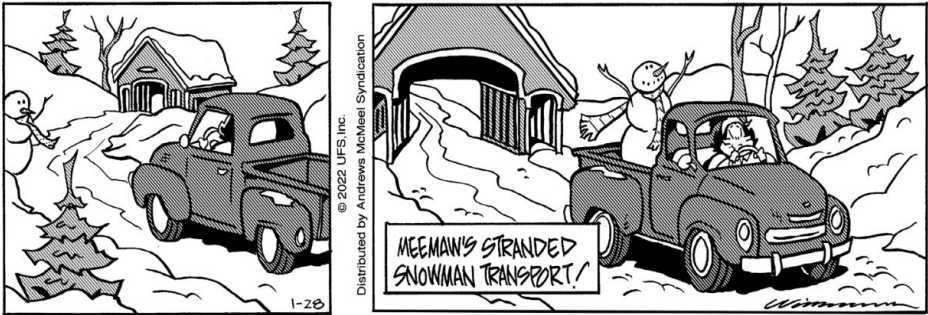
Pickles By Brian Crane



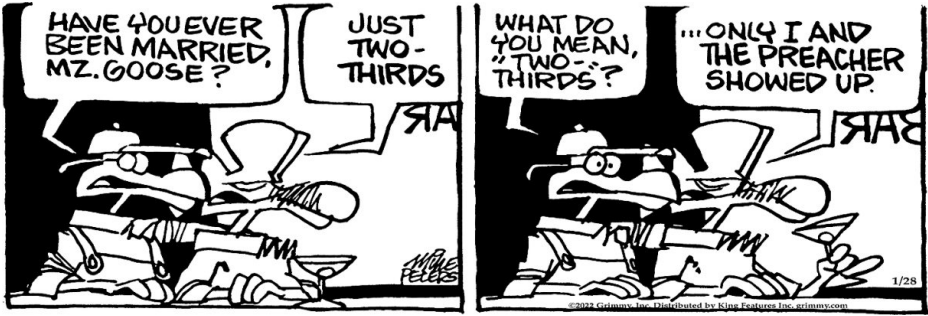
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Exhibit wanderlust
- 5 Graceless sort
- 8 Settled things
- 13 Revolution site
- 14 Church niche
- 15 Beethoven wrote just one
- 16 Reason for a robot's knee trouble?
- 18 Behind bars
- 19 Figure (out)
- 20 "Gross!"
- 22 Gratified
- 23 Run things
- 26 Ad for a good cause, briefly
- 27 Japanese port city
- 28 Yellowfin tuna
- 29 Drinking espresso before bed, say?
- 32 Orange County seat
- 35 Tibetan priest
- 36 Flushing problem?
- 39 Hang
- 40 Like beat cops
- 43 Babe who never lied?
- 46 Greek X
- 47 Chances
- 48 Vacuum's lack
- 49 Biological catalyst
- 52 Sgt., e.g.
- 53 Little mischief maker
- 54 Penélope who is the only Spanish actress with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
- 55 Georgia rivals of the Tide
- 57 Mom and dad's rhythmic genre?

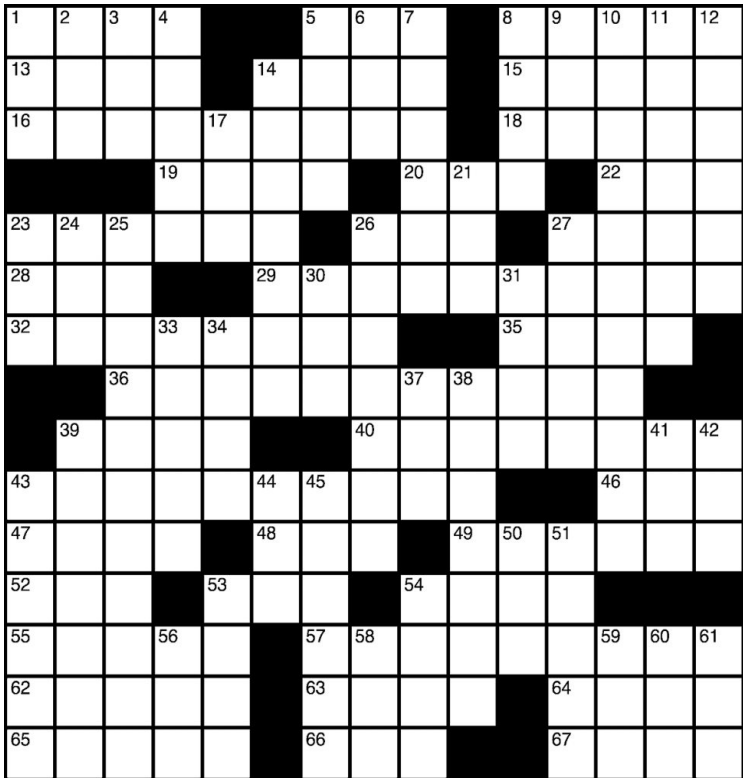
- 62 Like many elephants
- 63 Former partners
- 64 Flow like lava
- 65 Clown elevator
- 66 Source of early glistening
- 67 Low-level worker

Down

- 1 Indian friend of Sheldon and Leonard
- 2 Big name in kitchenware
- 3 Ring master
- 4 Organization name that means "table" in Latin
- 5 Magnum __
- 6 Animal in some fables
- 7 Amulet
- 8 Park on the water?
- 9 Clean Air Act org.

- 10 Seek leniency
- 11 Amazonian arboreal snake
- 12 Further down?
- 14 Longtime Tottenham football rival
- 17 Pull
- 21 Popular adoptee
- 23 Miguel's more
- 24 Reaction to a light bulb turning on?
- 25 GameCube successor
- 26 Gp. with many of the best drivers
- 27 Brat go-with
- 30 Like Beethoven's Sonata Op. 109
- 31 Snow queen in "Frozen"
- 33 Eases, with "down"
- 34 Helps out

- 37 Acct. earnings
- 38 Ranges of influence
- 39 Online entertainment
- 41 Omega, in physics
- 42 Fail to be straight
- 43 Pilots on the road
- 44 One might be doffed in Dundee
- 45 Muscular
- 50 "The Sound of Music" extra
- 51 "Tres Hombres" band
- 53 Ain't proper?
- 54 Captain's help
- 56 Milk purch.
- 58 Let go
- 59 Anonymous plaintiff in a landmark case
- 60 __ dye
- 61 Home near a barn



By Dan Schoenholz Tribune Content Agency 1/28/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

- 1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads the jack of clubs. How would you play the hand? (Assume the missing trumps divide 2-2 or 3-1.)
West [S] A Q 9 5 2 [H] K 8 4 3 [D] A J [C] 7 5 East [S] K J 10 8 [H] A 10 5 2 [D] K Q 9 [C] A Q
- 2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the king of clubs, South discarding a heart. How would you play the hand to guarantee a favorable outcome?
West [S] A K Q 2 [H] -- [D] A K Q 2 [C] J 10 9 8 6 East [S] 10 9 [H] A K Q 4 3 [D] 10 9 [C] 5 4 3 2

- 1. This is a case where you can assure the contract regardless of how the opposing cards are divided. Win the club lead with the ace, draw trump and cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding your club loser. Then ruff dummy's queen of clubs and lead the three of hearts.
You can't fail to make the slam if the opposing hearts are divided 3-2, so all your attention should be focused on protecting against a 4-1 (or 5-0) split. Accordingly, you proceed as follows:
If North follows low or shows out on the three, play the heart ten from dummy. If South wins with the jack or queen, he cannot avoid making a losing return. Whatever his holding, he must hand you a ruff-and-discard or lead a heart. If he started with, say, Q-J-9-6 and he returns the six, you play your eight to assure the contract. If he returns the nine, jack or queen of hearts, you play low, win with dummy's ace and again make the contract by leading toward your K-8.

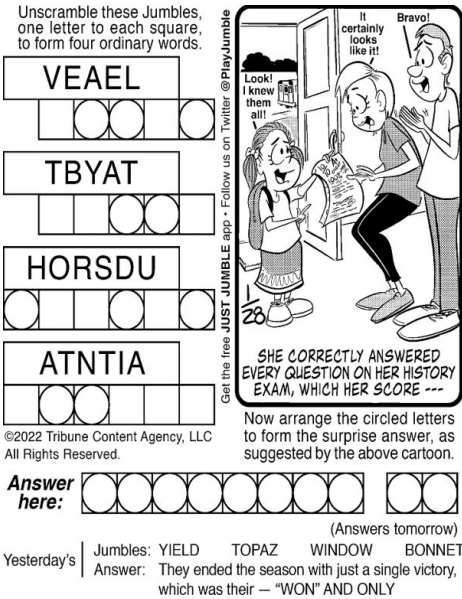
If, on your lead of the three of hearts, North plays the jack or queen, you can assure the slam by letting him hold the trick or by winning the jack or queen with the ace and returning the heart deuce from dummy, planning to finesse the eight if South follows low.

- 2. Play your eight of clubs on the king. If North shifts to any other suit, you automatically acquire an entry to dummy that assures the contract.
If North continues with the A-Q of clubs, you play your 10-9! North still can't lead another suit or you'd make four notrump, so he's forced to lead his seven of clubs -- on which you play your carefully preserved six! North is then at the end of his rope; whatever he leads, you win the remaining tricks.
If you were to play your six of clubs on the ace, king or queen, you could not be sure of making more than eight tricks and might go down one against best defense.

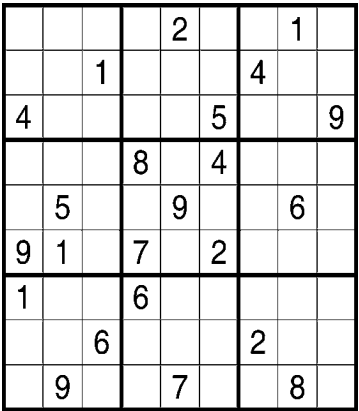
Tomorrow: Thrust and counterthrust.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

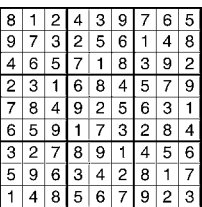


TODAY'S SUDOKU

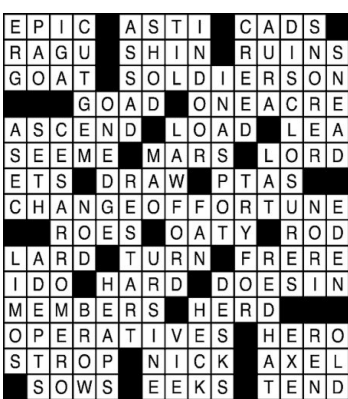


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



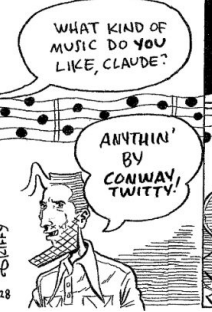
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UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Fudd's return was worth the wait

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Some two months since she last played in a game, freshman Azzi Fudd completed shootaround Wednesday prior to No. 10 UConn women's Big East matchup at DePaul and contemplated the timing of her return.

She hadn't played since Nov. 22, the Huskies' loss to South Carolina in the Bahamas, due to the beginning of a stress reaction in her foot, an injury that's been bothering her since the summer. The Huskies wanted to be cautious to not bring

Up next



UConn at Providence
7:30 p.m. Sun., SNY

her back too fast, but no doubt the freshman was anxious to return as February crept closer.

Prior to Wednesday's game, UConn coach Geno Auriemma told media that she needed more time to get back into game shape. Fudd was already participating in individual workouts and team prac-

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn guard Azzi Fudd (35) runs over DePaul guard Lexi Held (10) in the second half at Wintrust Arena on Wednesday in Chicago. Fudd, who was called for a charge on the play, returned to the lineup for the first time since Nov. 22. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

Committee gives early look: For now, UConn would be a No. 3 seed

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

If the college basketball season ended today, the UConn women's basketball team would seek to extend their streak of 13-consecutive Final Fours and to win their 12th national championship ... out West.

The Huskies were slotted as the No. 3 seed in the Spokane, Wash., region (and No. 11 overall) in the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee's first of three top-16 reveals in advance of the NCAA Tournament.

According to ESPN bracketologist Charlie Creme, UConn would've ended up in Bridgeport, the regional to which it is clos-

est geographically, but because the SEC and Big 12 each had four teams make the top 16 and the bracket is organized so conference foes avoid playing each other, UConn got bumped to Spokane.

"We weren't going to move teams from those lines just to put UConn in Bridgeport for geography purposes," NCAA women's basketball committee chair Nina King told the Associated Press. "At this point they are a three seed. Maybe they play their way up to 1-2 line."

The No. 1 seeds were South Carolina, Stanford, NC State and Tennessee, in that order. Stanford (No. 1),

Turn to Tourney, Page 4



Bills offensive coordinator Brian Daboll, left, and former Dolphins head coach Brian Flores appear to be the primary finalists for the open Giants coaching position. **AP**

GIANTS

It appears two Brians are top contenders for HC job

Decision likely to come down to Bills' Daboll, ex-Dolphin Flores

By Tom Rock
Newsday

NEW YORK — The Giants' next head coach seems to be coming down to a Battle of the Brians.

Brian Daboll, the offensive coordinator of the Bills and co-worker of new general manager Joe Schoen in Buffalo for the past five seasons, interviewed for the job on Tuesday. Brian Flores, the Brooklyn-native and former head coach of the Dolphins, interviewed on Thursday.

There is a good chance one of them will be offered the job before this weekend is over, perhaps, as Schoen noted after his introductory news conference on Wednesday, as soon as Saturday morning.

It may even be sooner than that. With Flores' in-person interview completed the Giants are in compliance with the NFL's Rooney Rule to encourage the consideration of minority candidates and are now free to hire anyone.

Well, not anyone. One of their other strong candidates, Cowboys defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, who interviewed on Monday, pulled his name from consideration on Thursday as the jobs with the Broncos and Bears were on their way to being filled. It could be that Quinn coveted those two positions the most, or it could be that he realized he was the third car in a two-car race between Daboll and Flores to coach his hometown team.

Turn to Giants, Page 2

Inside

NFL commentary: Does former Patriots quarterback Tom Brady have one more comeback left in him? **Page 2**

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Fire on the Ice

No. 2 Quinnipiac, UConn, Yale, Sacred Heart to showcase the state's top talent in Connecticut Ice NCAA men's hockey tournament

Connecticut's Jachym Kondelik skates during the first period against Boston on Oct. 9 in Boston. **STEW MILNE/AP**

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Quinnipiac coach Rand Pecknold can walk into his dressing room and feel some old familiar feelings. The faces are different but the record is similar and the vibe is unmistakable.

"There is actually a lot of similarities to our 2013 and 2016 Frozen Four teams," said Pecknold, who has No. 2-ranked Quinnipiac men's hockey back at the top of the national rankings. "Those teams also had a No. 1 ranking at some point during the season, and that's the character in our room. Just an awesome group of guys. They're all buying in, a 3.7 team GPA, they just do everything the right way. They don't need to have someone watching them to do things the right way."

The hope for Quinnipiac (18-2-3) and the state's other Division I programs is to have a lot of people — especially young hockey players — watching them do things the right way as the Connecticut Ice tournament returns on Saturday and Sunday.

The Bobcats play Sacred Heart,



Quinnipiac hockey coach Rand Pecknold and the Bobcats, ranked second in the major national polls, headline the Connecticut Ice tourney in Bridgeport, with UConn, Yale and defending champ Sacred Heart. **STAN GODLEWSKI/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

winner of the inaugural Connecticut Ice tournament, in the second game on Saturday. UConn and Yale face off in the opener at 3:30 p.m. ET at Webster Bank Arena in

Bridgeport. The event, driven to existence by SNY, is meant to be a Connecticut version of Boston's famous Beanpot tournament. It offers a chance for young players

Connecticut Ice

At Webster Bank Arena, Bridgeport
Saturday's games
UConn vs. Yale, 3:30 p.m.
Quinnipiac vs. Sacred Heart, 7 p.m.
Sunday's games
Consolation, 1 p.m.; championship, 4:30 p.m.

in Connecticut to see some of the best college hockey in the country. Five Hobey Baker Award candidates will be on display.

"Youth hockey players don't get to watch enough college hockey," said Yale coach Keith Allain, who coached the Bulldogs to the 2013 national championship. "They don't get to see how exciting it is, they don't get to see the pageantry. And when they look at the rosters and they see there are Connecticut players on all of our rosters they can think, 'hey, if they can do it, maybe I can do it as well.'"

The championship game is Sunday at 4:30 p.m. ET, followed by the consolation game. Sacred Heart won the first Connecticut

Turn to Hockey, Page 4

Did you know?

In the winter, air and pavement temperatures can often differ by many degrees - creating unexpected dangers for drivers.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at DePaul, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; Creighton (XL), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; at Villanova, Feb. 5, noon
UConn WBB: at Providence, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; at Creighton, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Butler (Gampel), Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Hawks, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pelicans, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Heat, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: at Bucks, Friday, 10 p.m.; Kings, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Grizzlies, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Warriors, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; at Suns, Tuesday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Wednesday, 10 p.m.
UConn hockey: vs. Yale (CT Collegiate Tourney), Saturday, 3:30 p.m.; vs. Quinnipiac/Sacred Heart (CT Collegiate Tourney), Sunday, time TBD; Providence, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Coyotes, Friday, 9 p.m.; at Stars, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Kraken, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Wild, Friday, 8 p.m.; Kraken, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Panthers, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Hershey, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

AUTO RACING

11:30 a.m.: Formula E-Round 1. (Live) CBSSN

BASKETBALL

5 p.m.: Pennsylvania at Harvard. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Akron at Toledo. (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Rhode Island at Dayton. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Ohio at Buffalo. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Women's College: St. John's at DePaul. (Live) FS1
7:30 p.m.: Boston Celtics at Atlanta Hawks. (Live), ESPN, NBCSB
9 p.m.: Cleveland State at Wright State. (Live) ESPN
9 p.m.: UNLV at Colorado State. (Live) FS1
10 p.m.: New York Knicks at Milwaukee Bucks. (Live), ESPN, MSG
11 p.m.: Boise State at Fresno State. (Live) FS1
2 a.m.: Boston Celtics at Atlanta Hawks. (Taped) ESPN2
GOLF
11:30 a.m.: Gainbridge LPGA, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: Farmers Insurance Open, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
5 p.m.: Farmers Insurance Open, Third Round. (Live) CBS
2 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Synchronicity Dubai Desert Classic, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
GYMNASTICS
7 p.m.: Women's College: LSU at Georgia. (Live) SEC
9 p.m.: Women's College: Alabama at Auburn. (Live) ESPN2
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Detroit Red Wings at Pittsburgh Penguins. (Live) SPRTNET
7 p.m.: Providence Bruins at Hartford Wolf Pack. (Live), Radio: 1410
8 p.m.: Minnesota Wild at New York Rangers. (Live), MSGPlus
9 p.m.: Boston Bruins at Arizona Coyotes. (Live), NESN
9 p.m.: Nebraska-Omaha at Colorado College. (Live) CBSSN
10 p.m.: Boston Bruins at Arizona Coyotes. (Live) SPRTNET
TENNIS
8 a.m.: 2022 Australian Open Tennis Men's Semifinals. (Taped)
TENNIS
2 p.m.: 2022 Australian Open Tennis Men's Second Semifinal. (Taped) ESPN2
3:30 a.m. Sat.: 2022 Australian Open Tennis Women's Final. (Live) ESPN
WRESTLING
7 p.m.: North Carolina at Virginia. (Live) ACC

KNICKS

Fournier critical of offensive strategy as the starting lineup continues to flop

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

With the struggles continuing for the Knicks and the schedule only turning more daunting, Evan Fournier offered a harsh assessment of the team's strategy after getting blown out the doors in Miami.

The shooting guard, who was part of a starting lineup that was pummeled in Wednesday night's 110-96 defeat, said the Knicks never adjusted to the Heat's defensive scheme of switching defenders onto the ball off screens.

Although not a good reflection of the game planning, it was a refreshing account from Fournier compared to the cliched excuses of not having enough energy or heart.

"It wasn't about the physicality, to be honest. It was more about the organization," Fournier said. "They switched with Bam (Adebayo), forcing us to get out of our rhythm. We did not play well offensively. We did not take advantage of the switch. It kind of took us away from ball movement."

Adebayo, who played center Wednesday night on Mitchell Robinson, is an all-NBA defender and capable of staying in front of and

thwarting most guards one-on-one. When Robinson set a screen to free up Fournier or another playmaker, Adebayo simply moved over to guard the ball on the perimeter.

The Knicks starters were torched in the first and third quarters. They had more turnovers (11) than assists (7). They could never take advantage of mismatches.

Fournier, who had just seven points in 20 minutes, blamed the lack of adjustments, although he wasn't specific about whether it was the players or coaches falling short.

"My point is we have to adapt to what other teams are doing," Fournier said. "When we had that good stretch, we were playing a certain way. Because the guys in front of us were doing something similar every time. When we play a team that does things differently, we have to adjust. So if they take away what we do well, you have to do something else and be okay with that and create opportunities and etc, etc."

"We have to adapt. That's the main thing. Because we have the weapons, let's be honest. We have guys who can score. It shouldn't be a problem for us to score."



The Heat's Jimmy Butler tries to lean into the Knicks' Evan Fournier during the first half Wednesday in Miami. **MICHAEL LAUGHLIN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

New York's starting lineup of Fournier, Robinson, Kemba Walker, Julius Randle and RJ Barrett has been outscored by 114 points this season, which is the worst of any lineup in the NBA. It also has a net rating of -15.4. That is the worst of any lineup that has played at least 300 minutes.

Still, Thibodeau didn't seem eager to alter the rotation Wednesday. He referenced the starting lineup playing well recently, which was certainly the case during a three-game winning streak this month, although Alec Burks was the point guard then because Walker had a sore knee.

"We'll see. The thing is it's not just the starters," Thibodeau said about potential lineup changes. "The bench did some good things. But we need everyone to play well."

NFL COMMENTARY

Does Brady have just one more comeback left in him?

By Christopher Gasper
Boston Globe

Tom Brady is no stranger to comebacks.

He's known for them; just ask the Atlanta Falcons, his most famous victims. Or ask his last opponents, the Los Angeles Rams, who saw Brady evaporate a 27-3 deficit last Sunday before the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defense self-destructed.

Does Brady have one more big comeback in him? Will he come back for a 23d NFL season?

It's tougher to read than a trap coverage. But there are multiple people in Brady's inner circle pushing him to finally hang 'em up at age 44, and he's more open to the idea than ever before. It's not just his supermodel spouse Gisele Bündchen pushing retirement. The thinking goes that the odds of something bad happening to Brady at age 45 are greater than the odds of reaching an 11th Super Bowl.

Yet, Brady is hard-wired for competition. He's competing with Father Time and on the verge of winning by doing exactly what he set out to do — playing until age 45. It's not in Brady's nature or his DNA to leave another MVP-caliber season and Super Bowl run on the cutting-room floor of his career. Plus, there's no better testimonial for the TB12 Method and his work with guru Alex



Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady walks off the field during a divisional playoff game against the Rams on Sunday in Tampa, Fla. **ALEX MENENDEZ/AP**

Guerrero or advertising for BRADY brand, his new apparel line, than Brady continuing to play at the highest level.

Brady always said he would retire when he sucked. He's coming off a season in which despite a spate of injuries to key Buccaneers players and the self-immolation of wide receiver Antonio Brown, TB12 led the league in touchdown passes (43), passing yards (career-high 5,316), completions (485), and passing yards per game (312.7).

He should keep going into the fray.

The longer it takes Brady to announce his

retirement, the less likely that retirement becomes. If this decision drags out past February, then you know Brady is trying to find a way to play. He's addicted to playing quarterback.

A key date is Feb. 4. That's when the Buccaneers are supposed to pay Brady \$15 million deferred as part of the \$20 million signing bonus from his contract renegotiation last offseason. If Brady retires, he forfeits that money and must pay back another \$1 million for a total forfeiture of \$16 million. It's not like he needs the money.

Brady has nothing left to prove with seven championship rings and a 5-1

playoff record, including a Super Bowl victory, without Bill Belichick. He already is in rarefied air as an American team-sports icon, sharing a plinth with Bill Russell and Michael Jordan. He's only adding to his legend at this point.

If I had to take an educated guess now, I would say the needle is pointing toward retirement. Brady's recent Instagram post sounded like a subtle sign-off.

Part of deciding whether he wants to do another tour with Tampa Bay will be the Bucs convincing Brady that he'll still be leading a real contender. That he's not starting over.

Giants

from Page 1

The Giants are also scheduled to have an in-person interview with Bills defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier on Friday, the last of their anticipated meetings. If Schoen and ownership do not come to a consensus after that they could expand the field, but most believe that the next head coach of the Giants has already come through their building this week now that Daboll and Flores have completed their interviews.

While the Giants may be eager to name their head coach, they don't appear to have much competition prompting a rushed decision. Daboll is a finalist for the job with the Dolphins but they have reportedly determined they will not hold second interviews for candidates until next week. Flores interviewed already for the jobs in

Chicago (filled) and Houston. That search has also included Hines Ward and Josh McCown as serious yet unorthodox candidates.

Daboll remains the favorite for the Giants given his relationship with Schoen and Schoen's insistence that he and the new head coach share a common philosophy (he used the word "lockstep" several times in his news conferences and interviews).

Flores has head coaching experience, which Daboll does not, but Flores also has the baggage that can come with that. He was fired by the Dolphins despite two consecutive winning seasons for reportedly not seeing eye-to-eye with general manager Chris Grier (in other words they were not in, ahem, lockstep). Grier and Schoen worked together in Miami before Schoen went to Buffalo. Flores also churned through a number of coordinators in his three years with

the Dolphins, which could be troublesome for a Giants team that is looking for stability, particularly when it comes to the development of quarterback Daniel Jones.

"That's certainly one of the things that we're going to ask Brian," co-owner John Mara said on Wednesday. "We're going to spend some time on that when he comes in."

Depending on how he answered, he may be one step closer to being head coach of the Giants... or allowed the other Brian to jump ahead of him.

Giants sign Bills back: Schoen's first personnel move was signing a running back from ... the Bills! Antonio Williams, who has spent most of the past two seasons on Buffalo's practice squad, signed a reserve futures contract with the Giants on Thursday, opening what could become a pipeline of talent to flow from the Bills to the Giants' roster.

MLB

Yankees, Mets both waiting on shortstop prospects

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — It's becoming increasingly rare for teams to win at the Major League level without a shortstop.

Even if your shortstop isn't a stratospheric superstar, getting either superb glove work or pumped up power is basically a requirement now. While Atlanta won the World Series with Dansby Swanson — maybe the 12th or 13th best shortstop in the game — his 27 home runs and two in the World Series were more than enough to get them over the hump, especially when paired with his steady defense and all-world teammates.

The Big Apple's teams are in drastically different places with their shortstops. The Mets are married to Francisco Lindor for the next 10 years unless they can convince someone to take on his contract, which pays the shortstop until he's 37. The Yankees, meanwhile, are at an all-important crossroads. The team is a little bit too good, and the franchise is far too proud, for a full rebuild. Yet, it was clear some time around July that the Bombers needed to shake things up at shortstop.

Gleyber Torres' second straight season of absentee power and atrocious defense came right before a bevy of talented shortstops became free agents. But the Yankees sat on their hands and watched Corey Seager, Marcus Semien and Javier Baez all sign with other American League teams before the lockout. The only remaining unsigned options at the big boy table are Carlos Correa (who recently signed with agent Scott Boras and will demand a king's ransom, likely taking the Yankees out of participation) and Trevor Story.

Story is a tremendous player but one with a history of injuries to his throwing arm, and as per usual, a career Rockie brings skepticism about how their offense will carry over into non-Corors Field stadiums. Story could be attained for much less money than Correa, not that that should matter to the Yankees anyway. But if the team really is insistent on penny pinching and rolling with a stopgap shortstop in 2022, that places a world of pressure on Oswaldo Cabrera, Anthony Volpe and Oswald Peraza.

None of those three players, the most MLB-adjacent infield prospects in the Yankees' system who are all gunning to one day be the starting shortstop, are older than 22. The last time the Yankees called up a peach-fuzzed shortstop to the big leagues, they got 24 home runs and an All-Star season from rookie Torres, who has become a liability just three years later. This puts the team in a precarious spot: needing a shortstop sooner than later but also not wanting to rush someone up too quickly and stunt their development.

It is certainly better to have a trio of ascending players in the minors than to have a bare cupboard. But minor leaguers are anything but a sure thing, and while a defensive stalwart would benefit the Yankees next year, seeing someone like Andrelton Simmons out there would only provide a physical reminder to fans that they missed out on the hot shots of the vaunted 2022 free agent class.

BRUINS LATE WEDNESDAY

Makar, Avalanche rally by Bruins for 17th straight home win

Associated Press

DENVER — Gabriel Landeskog tied the game with 36.5 seconds left in regulation and Cale Makar scored a power-play goal 3:01 into overtime as the Colorado Avalanche rallied past the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Wednesday night for

their 17th straight home victory.

With Mike Reilly serving a tripping penalty, Makar took a feed from Nazem Kadri and sent a shot past Linus Ullmark to give the Avalanche their eighth consecutive win overall.

Colorado, which overcame the loss of star Nathan MacKinnon to a

bloody injury in the first period, broke a tie with the 1975-76 Bruins for the fifth-longest home winning streak in NHL history. The record is 23, set by Detroit during the 2011-12 season.

"Not fun seeing one of your best friends and obviously your top player on the ice bleeding like that," Landeskog said. "We didn't

want to give up. We wanted to keep going. We got the big two points, keeping this thing going at home."

The Avalanche last lost at home on Nov. 3 to Columbus 5-4 in overtime and have so far lived up to preseason expectations as a Stanley Cup favorite. They're 13-0-1 this month and have an NHL-best 30

wins.

"With the way our team is built and realizing what contract situations and what the team is going to look like in the next few years, you never know," Landeskog said. "We feel this is our chance and this is our year. We want to take advantage of it."

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	29	19	.604	—
Philadelphia	28	19	.596	½
Boston	25	24	.510	4½
Toronto	23	23	.500	5
New York	23	26	.469	6½

SOUTHEAST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	31	17	.646	—
Charlotte	27	22	.551	4½
Washington	23	25	.479	8
Atlanta	22	25	.468	8½
Orlando	9	40	.184	22½

CENTRAL				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	30	17	.638	—
Cleveland	30	19	.612	1
Milwaukee	30	20	.600	1½
Indiana	17	32	.347	14
Detroit	11	36	.234	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	33	17	.660	—
Dallas	28	21	.571	4½
New Orleans	18	29	.383	13½
San Antonio	18	31	.367	14½
Houston	14	34	.292	18

NORTHWEST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	30	19	.612	—
Denver	26	21	.553	3
Minnesota	24	23	.511	5
Portland	20	28	.417	9½
Oklahoma City	14	33	.298	15

PACIFIC				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	38	9	.809	—
Golden State	35	13	.729	3½
L.A. Clippers	25	25	.500	14½
L.A. Lakers	24	24	.500	14½
Sacramento	18	32	.360	21½

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia, late
Minnesota at Golden State, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Orlando, 7p.m.
Boston at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Charlotte, 7:30p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Indiana at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Miami, 8p.m.
Portland at Houston, 8p.m.
Utah at Memphis, 8p.m.
Chicago at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Boston at New Orleans, 7p.m.
Indiana at Dallas, 7p.m.
Sacramento at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Miami, 8p.m.
Washington at Memphis, 8p.m.
Brooklyn at Golden State, 8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland 115, Milwaukee 99
L.A. Clippers 111, Orlando 102
Charlotte 158, Indiana 126
Atlanta 121, Sacramento 104
Miami 110, New York 96
Chicago 111, Toronto 105
Denver 124, Brooklyn 118
Memphis 118, San Antonio 110
Dallas 132, Portland 112
Phoenix 105, Utah 97

ALL STAR GAME STARTERS
EAST CONFERENCE FRONT COURT
Kevin Durant: F, Brooklyn (captain)
Giannis Antetokounmpo: F, Milwaukee
Joel Embiid: F/C, Philadelphia
EAST CONFERENCE BACK COURT
DeMar DeRozan: G/F, Chicago
Trae Young: G, Atlanta
WEST CONFERENCE FRONT COURT
LeBron James: F, L.A. Lakers (captain)
Nikola Jokic: F/C, Denver
e323Andrew Wiggins: F, Golden State
WEST CONFERENCE BACK COURT
Stephen Curry: G, Golden State
Ja Morant: G, Memphis
ALL-STAR 2022 KEY DATES
Feb. 3: All-Star reserves announced
Feb. 8: State Farm All-Star Saturday
Night participants announced
Feb. 10: All-Star Draft
Feb. 18-20: All-Star Weekend

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS				
SCORING	G	FG	FT	PTS
Durant, BKN	36	379	228	1053
James, LAL	36	393	161	1047
Embiid, PHI	36	339	321	1045
Ganttknmpo, MIL	40	394	311	1142
Young, ATL	43	398	269	1191
DeRozan, CHI	43	409	290	1134
Jokic, DEN	42	423	187	1099
Tatum, BOS	45	406	235	1172
Curry, GS	44	367	191	1134
Morant, MEM	37	355	185	953
Mitchell, UTA	40	372	148	1020
Booker, PHO	40	361	173	999
LaVine, CHI	40	358	162	994
Towns, MIN	40	341	193	964
Brown, BOS	35	304	133	841
Beal, WAS	39	346	164	919
Harden, BKN	42	284	297	964
G.Alexandr, OKC	42	330	239	966
Edwards, MIN	41	337	119	929
Ingram, MI	36	294	162	808

FG PERCENTAGE				
	FG	FGA	PCT	
Gobert, UTA	237	335	.707	
Allen, CLE	270	392	.689	
Harrell, WAS	219	336	.652	
McGee, PHO	179	275	.651	
Ayton, PHO	205	322	.637	
Poeltl, SA	243	399	.609	
Sabonis, IND	310	537	.577	
Capela, ATL	200	348	.575	
Jokic, DEN	423	741	.571	
Aldridge, BKN	203	363	.559	

REBOUNDS				
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT
Gobert, UTA	42	154	479	633
Jokic, DEN	42	117	464	581
Capela, ATL	39	155	338	493
Valanciunas, NO	43	146	370	516
Sabonis, IND	44	141	382	523
Vucevic, CHI	40	80	375	455
Ganttknmpo, MIL	40	72	377	449
Allen, CLE	41	140	309	449

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG		
at Harvard	3½	Pennsylvania		
Wyoming	8½	at Air Force		
at No. Kentucky	2½	Purdue Ft Wayne		
at Dayton	6	Rhode Island		
at Buffalo	3	Ohio		
at Toledo	9½	Akron		
at Siena	1	Niagara		
at Quinnipiac	1	Marist		
at New Mexico	9½	San Jose State		
at Colorado State	1½	UNLV		
at Wright State	2	Cleveland State		
at Fresno State	1	Boise State		

NBA FAVORITE				
	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG	
at Orlando	2	(off)	Detroit	
at Charlotte	off	(off)	LA Lakers	
at Atlanta	2½	(off)	Boston	
Portland	2	(off)	at Houston	
Denver	5½	(off)	at New Orleans	
at Okla. City	1½	(off)	Indiana	
at Memphis	2½	(off)	Utah	
at Miami	5½	(off)	LA Clippers	
Chicago	2	(off)	at San Antonio	
at Phoenix	2	(off)	Minnesota	
at Milwaukee	9	(off)	New York	

NHL FAVORITE				
	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE	
Minnesota	-114	at NY Rangers	-105	
at Pittsburgh	-240	Detroit	+195	
Colorado	-230	at Chicago	+198	
Washington	-128	at Dallas	+106	
Boston	-330	at Arizona	+260	

NFL PLAYOFFS				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	
at Kansas City	7	(54%)	Cincinnati	
at LA Rams	3½	(45%)	San Francisco	
SUPER BOWL LVI EXACT RESULT				
Kansas City To Beat L.A. Rams	12-5			
L.A. Rams To Beat Kansas City	3-1			
Kansas City To Beat San Francisco	9-2			
San Francisco To Beat Kansas City	6-1			
L.A. Rams To Beat Cincinnati	10-1			
Cincinnati To Beat L.A. Rams	12-1			
San Francisco To Beat Cincinnati	18-1			
Cincinnati To Beat San Francisco	20-1			
For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/				

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	43	29	9	5	63	175	125		
Tampa Bay	43	28	10	5	61	149	123		
Toronto	39	26	10	3	55	133	103		
Boston	40	24	13	3	51	125	111		
Detroit	43	18	19	6	42	118	147		
Buffalo	42	13	22	7	33	111	147		
Ottawa	36	13	20	3	29	103	125		
Montreal	41	8	26	7	23	90	154		

METRO. GP W L OT PTS GF GA									
N.Y. Rangers	43	28	11	4	60	132	110		
Pittsburgh	42	27	10	5	59	145	111		
Carolina	39	28	9	2	58	140	94		
Washington	44	23	12	9	55	140	122		
Columbus	40	18	21	1	37	121	145		
N.Y. Islanders	35	15	14	6	36	84	94		
New Jersey	41	15	21	5	35	118	145		
Philadelphia	43	13	22	8	34	106	148		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	41	30	8	3	63	171	121		
Nashville	44	27	14	3	57	138	120		
St. Louis	42	25	12	5	55	147	116		
Minnesota	38	25	10	3	53	149	115		
Dallas	40	22	16	2	46	120	121		
Winnipeg	39	17	15	7	41	114	119		
Chicago	43	16	20	7	39	107	142		
Arizona	41	10	27	4	24	92	158		

PACIFIC GP W L OT PTS GF GA									
Vegas	43	25	15	3	53	149	129		
Anaheim	45	21	16	8	50	133	130		
Los Angeles	43	21	16	6	48	121	118		
Calgary	38	20	12	6	46	126	94		
San Jose	43	22	19	2	46	119	132		
Edmonton	38	20	16	2	42	125	128		
Vancouver	42	18	19	5	41	105	119		
Seattle	42	13	25	4	30	112	152		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Anaheim at Montreal, late
Carolina at Ottawa, late
Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders, late
N.Y. Rangers at Columbus, late
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, late
Seattle at Pittsburgh, late
Vegas at Florida, late
Calgary at St. Louis, late
Vancouver at Winnipeg, late
Nashville at Edmonton, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Boston at Arizona, 9p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 9p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Anaheim at Ottawa, 12:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 1p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Islanders, 2p.m.
Winnipeg at St. Louis, 3p.m.
San Jose at Florida, 6p.m.
Edmonton at Montreal, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Carolina, 7p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7p.m.
Vegas at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Buffalo at Arizona, 9p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
San Jose 4, Washington 1
Calgary 6, Columbus 0
Toronto 4, Anaheim 3 (SO)
Chicago 8, Detroit 5
Colorado 4, Boston 3 (OT)

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE							
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	23	18	3	2	55	14	57
Liverpool	22	14	6	2	58	19	48
Chelsea	24	13	8	3	48	18	47
Man United	22	11	5	6	36	30	38
West Ham	23	11	4	8	41	31	37
Arsenal	21	11	3	7	33	25	36
Tottenham	20	11	3	6	26	24	36
Wolverhampton	21	10	4	7	19	16	34
Brighton	22	6	12	4	23	30	30
Leicester	20	7	5	8	34	37	26
Aston Villa	21	8	2	11	28	32	26
Southampton	22	5	10	7	26	34	25
Crystal Palace	22	5	9	8	31	34	24
Brentford	23	6	5	12	26	38	23
Leeds	21	5	7	9	24	40	22
Everton	20	5	4	11	24	35	19
Norwich	22	4	4	14	13	45	16
Newcastle	21	2	9	10	21	43	15
Watford	20	4	2	14	23	40	14
Burnley	18	1	9	8	16	27	12

SATURDAY, FEB. 5
Burnley vs. Watford, 1p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE
q-Thursday: U.S. 1, El Salvador 0
q-Sunday: at Canada at Hamilton, Ontario, 3:05 p.m.
q-Feb. 2: vs. Honduras at St. Paul, Minn., 7:30 p.m.
q-March 24: at Mexico
q-March 27: vs. Panama at Orlando, Fla., 7 p.m.
q-March 30: at Costa Rica
June 1: exhibition
q-World Cup qualifying

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday's games
AFC: No. 4 Cincinnati (12-7) at No. 2 Kansas City (14-5), 3:05 p.m.
NFC: No. 6 San Francisco (12-7) at No. 4 L.A. Rams (14-5), 6:40 p.m.

SUPER BOWL LVI
Sunday, Feb. 13 at SoFi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.
Conference champions, 6:30 p.m

TEAM OFFENSE STATS				
AFC	YPG	PASS	RUN	PPG
Cincinnati	361.5	259.0	102.5	27.1
Playoffs	326.5	252.5	74.0	22.5
Kanssa City	396.8	281.8	115.0	28.2
Playoffs	515.0	371.0	144.0	42.0
NFC	YPG	PASS	RUN	PPG
San Francisco	375.7	248.3	127.4	25.1
Playoffs	276.5	139.0	137.5	18.0
L.A. Rams	372.1	273.1	99.0	27.1
Playoffs	401.5	295.0	106.5	32.0

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: at DePaul,
6:30 p.m., FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: at Providence,
7:30 p.m., SNY

UConn
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If the NCAA women's tournament started today, Paige Bueckers, left, Geno Auriemma, right, and the UConn women's basketball team would be a No. 3 seed out West. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Tourney
from Page 1

Texas (No. 2) and Georgia (No. 4) were also placed in the Spokane regional. Aside from last year, when the entire NCAA Tournament was held in San Antonio, UConn has played its regional in either Albany or Bridgeport every year since 2015. In 2014, the team traveled to Lincoln, Neb., and won the regional there on its way to winning the program's ninth national championship. The Huskies are 12-4 in this injury-marred season and have one nonconference game remaining (Feb. 6 versus Tennessee). The last time they were seeded lower than a No. 2

was in 2005, when they were a No. 3 in Kansas City. They lost to Stanford in the Sweet 16 that year. Three of UConn's four losses this season were to teams in the top 16: No. 1 overall South Carolina, No. 5 Louisville and No. 14 Oregon. UConn is expected to be at full strength with the return of reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers by the NCAA Tournament, and its sole loss at full strength was to the Gamecocks (73-57, Nov. 22). The committee will conduct two more early reveals on Feb. 10 and Feb. 28, while the final bracket will be unveiled March 13 at 8 p.m.

Greensboro:
1. South Carolina (1)
2. Arizona (8)

3. Michigan (9)
4. Kansas State (16)
Spokane:
1. Stanford (2)
2. Texas (7)
3. UConn (11)
4. Georgia (15)
Bridgeport:
1. NC State (3)
2. Indiana (6)
3. LSU (12)
4. Baylor (13)
Wichita:
1. Tennessee (4)
2. Louisville (5)
3. Iowa State (10)
4. Oregon (14)

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UConn
from Page 1

tice. When she felt good at shootaround, she made up her mind. It was go time. "Why not?" Fudd recalled. "What am I waiting for?" A few hours and 22 minutes of play later, she said, "I'm really glad I did." So are the Huskies. Fudd gave UConn exactly what it needed to fight off an upset-minded DePaul team in Chicago, 80-78: Another guard who could run up and down with the Blue Demons, a much-needed threat from 3 and a deliverer of clutch baskets that were all the more impressive considering it was Fudd's fifth-ever collegiate game and first in two months. In all, she finished with 15 points, the third-most on the team, on 6-for-10 shooting (3-for-6 on 3s).

The fact that she was going to play at all was a surprise. Fudd — who arrived to the game in uniform for the first time since her injury — looked on from the bench while teammates took the floor at Wintrust Arena to get some shots up. It wasn't clear until she joined the team for stretching and warmups — and when Auriemma told SNY she'd be getting a few minutes of play — that she would make her return. It was a win that Fudd appeared to be moving well throughout the game, considering her foot injury hampered her mobility against South Carolina in November and limited her to 10 minutes of play. Fudd, a big-time recruit whose decision to play at UConn elicited the same level of hype as Paige Bueckers, didn't just go through the motions in her return.

Weather forces time, location change for women's Sunday game at Providence

The UConn women's basketball's game Sunday at Providence has been moved from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and from the Dunkin' Donuts Center to Alumni Hall on campus, the Big East announced Thursday. The change was made as the Providence men's basketball team's game versus Marquette was pushed from Saturday to Sunday due the possibility of a winter storm this weekend. That game will now tip 12:30 p.m. from the Dunk. SNY will still air the UConn women's game. The Huskies are looking to remain undefeated in conference play after improving to 7-0 with their 80-78 win over DePaul Wednesday. Providence is 4-5 in the league.

— Alexa Philippou

She showed off her famed shooting form and footwork that didn't show that she went weeks and weeks without live reps. Fudd's first 3-point attempt didn't fall, but she made the next try from the left wing. Fudd helped the Huskies with her defense (three steals) and facilitating, but her timely shots provided huge momentum swings. After they had allowed a 21-2 DePaul run in the second quarter and trailed by nine, Fudd's corner 3 on an inbounds play and her two-dribble pullup jumper off a handoff from Olivia Nelson-Ododa, turned a three-point deficit into a two-point UConn edge. She then rattled off seven of UConn's first 10 points of the fourth — thanks to another pull-up jumper off the dribble, a 3 in transition and a backdoor layup — to keep DePaul an arm's length away. With UConn struggling at times to find an offensive identity in the absence of Bueckers, Fudd proved she can be a go-to option alongside the likes of Christyn Williams and Caroline Ducharme. Moreover, the freshman sharpshooter demonstrated flashes of the

efficiency from the arc that the Huskies have so desperately lacked since she and Bueckers went down. It's a small sample size since she has only played five games and taken 24 shots from the arc, but Fudd's 45.8% clip from 3 is by far the team's best (the next closest is Williams' 32.1% mark). It will likely open things up for teammates moving forward. "When you add somebody like that to the lineup, that makes a lot of people feel a lot more confident, especially me" Auriemma said. "Now we have a better opportunity to withstand [problems in the backcourt], and we're better offensively with those two [Fudd and Williams], for sure." With Fudd and Williams, who was out due to COVID-19 protocol, both healthy, the Huskies should be able to manage Fudd's minutes as she eases her way back into things. Even if she remains on a minutes restriction for the time being, Fudd gives Auriemma a fifth guard to work with after the team spent six of its previous nine games with just three options in the backcourt. The Huskies have plenty

LATE WEDNESDAY UConn 80, DEPAUL 78									
UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	P		
Ducharme	32	8-12	1-2	4	2	4	19		
Williams	32	7-12	3-4	2	3	1	17		
Muhl	33	5-8	0-0	1	5	2	12		
Juhasz	22	4-7	0-0	12	4	4	8		
Nelson-Ododa	26	3-6	0-2	6	3	5	6		
Fudd	23	6-10	0-0	1	1	2	15		
Westbrook	24	1-2	0-0	2	1	1	3		
Edwards	8	0-1	0-0	2	0	0	0		
TOTALS	—	34-58	4-8	34	19	19	80		
Three-point goals: 8-20, 40.0 (Fudd 3-6, Muhl 2-4, Ducharme 2-5, Westbrook 1-2, Williams 0-1, Juhasz 0-2). FG pct.: 58.6. FT pct.: 50.0. Team rebounds: 4. Turnovers: 20 (Muhl 4, Fudd 3, Westbrook 3, Ducharme 2, Nelson-Ododa 2, Edwards 2, Team 2, Williams, Juhasz). Blocks: 2 (Muhl, Juhasz). Steals: 8 (Williams 3, Fudd 3, Muhl, Nelson-Ododa).									
DePaul	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	P		
Morrow	36	11-19	8-9	14	2	2	30		
Morris	39	8-23	2-2	5	2	0	19		
Held	40	5-9	0-0	2	4	3	12		
Rogers	38	5-11	0-0	4	5	2	12		
Church	17	0-3	2-2	0	0	0	2		
Collier	28	1-5	0-0	2	2	3	3		
Purcell	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0		
Holmes	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0		
TOTALS	—	30-70	12-13	32	15	10	78		
Three-point goals: 8-21, 28.6 (Held 2-5, Rogers 2-5, Morris 1-4, Collier 1-4, Church 0-1, Morrow 0-2). FG pct.: 42.9. FT pct.: 92.3. Team rebounds: 5. Turnovers: 11 (Morrow 3, Church 3, Held 2, Morris, Collier, Team). Blocks: 0. Steals: 7 (Morrow 3, Held 2, Morris, Church).									
UConn	20	11	23	26	—	80			
DePaul	11	29	13	25	—	78			
Officials: Lukianich, Smith, Vaszily. Site: 1,989at Wintrust Arena, Chicago, Ill.									

of things to clean up and could have lost the DePaul game, but what's perhaps most promising? If Wednesday is any indication, Fudd is going to be an immediate difference-maker offensively and a helpful piece defensively. More broadly speaking, the Huskies are now the healthiest they've been since mid-November. If they can stay that way, they'll have 11 regular-season games left to solidify their roles and on-court chemistry, which has already made huge strides over the last few weeks and Wednesday alone. Then it's just a matter of incorporating one remaining player back into the fold, and she happens to be the reigning national player of the year in Bueckers. Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

Hockey
from Page 1

Ice title, beating Quinnipiac 4-1 for the title in 2020. The event drew 10,355 over its two days, Jan. 25-26, a few weeks before the sports world stopped due to COVID-19. The pandemic forced the tournament's cancellation in 2021. The atmosphere, the excitement and the results of the first event have stayed with Quinnipiac. "I was a little disappointed that we fell flat in the championship game," Pecknold said. "I was impressed with Sacred Heart, their celebration, how excited their kids were. I still remember them jumping over the boards. Their fans, their engagement was outstanding. ... We still have that taste in our mouths." This season against ranked teams, Quinnipiac tied Boston College, beat Northeastern, split two games with North Dakota, beat Harvard and lost in OT to Cornell. Through 23 games, the Bobcats have outscored opponents 82-24 and outshot them 806-393. Wyatt Bongiovanni (12 goals, seven assists) and Ty Smilanic (11 and seven) are the top scorers. Yaniv Perets (0.84 goals against) and Dylan St. Cyr (1.43) have been solid in goal. "These guys are willing to block shots, willing to back-check hard, willing to do the little things we need to do to be successful," Pecknold said. Sacred Heart, like UConn, has a new rink under construction and its program is rising under C.J. Marottolo, a North Haven native in his 13th season. With its Connecticut Ice championship as a springboard, the Pioneers were 21-10-2 in 2019-20. "[The tournament] was a great event for us," Marottolo said. "Not only to win it but to see our hockey community at Sacred Heart come together. Our student body and administrators


really got behind our team that weekend, and it was great for our players to sense that community." This season, Sacred Heart (9-11-3) is led by Braeden Tuck (eight goals, six assists) and Ryan Steele (eight, five). Yale (5-10-1) has had a number of games canceled or postponed due to COVID but has earned a tie with Colgate and road wins at Union and RPI in its last three games. Ian Carpentier, who leads the Bulldogs with six goals, had four goals and an assist in the two wins and was named ECAC player of the week. UConn (11-10, 8-6 in Hockey East) defeated New Hampshire and Merrimack in its last two games, both at the XL Center. The Huskies have two players, Jachym Kondelik and Ryan Tverberg, on the Hobey Baker Award's list of candidates, along with Quinnipiac's Perets and Zach Metsa and Sacred Heart's Tuck. Huskies coach Mike Cavanaugh, a Massachusetts native and long-time assistant at Boston College before coming to UConn, has a long history with the Beanpot — he remembers his father stranded at the event during the Blizzard of 1978. The Connecticut Ice tournament, he says, can become a similar season-within-a-season, timed perfectly in January. "One thing I always liked about The Beanpot was the timing of it," Cavanaugh said. "This tournament has similar timing. It prepares you for what's coming ahead. Sometimes, when you didn't play well in the Beanpot, you realized, 'hey, we've got to be a little bit more aggressive if we want to make the playoffs.' Sometimes you win at the Beanpot and you say, 'this is the blueprint for success down the road.' " Tickets for the Connecticut Ice tournament are available on ticketmaster.com. Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Old newcomers making big impact

Associated Press

There are a lot of old newcomers making a splash this season in college basketball. ACC top scorer Alondes Williams for Wake Forest and Pac-12 leader Terrell Brown Jr. at Washington are both senior transfers who joined their new teams this season. The same goes for the leading scorers for four of the 10 teams in the Big 12. With the extra season of eligibility available to everyone because of the pandemic and players being able to go into the transfer portal and play right away elsewhere, there were a lot of changes on rosters across the country. About 1,700 players went into the portal last offseason. "I think every coach kind of deals with that nowadays with people stepping in, playing right away and being new to campus," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. The leading scorers in the SEC and Big East are also seniors, but in their second season on the court since changing schools. JD Notae transferred to Arkansas from Jacksonville, and had to sit out the 2019-20 season before the altered transfer rules. Javon Freeman-Liberty went to DePaul after two seasons at Valparaiso. Reigning national champion Baylor added graduate transfer point guard James Akinjo from Arizona after the trio of talented guards, Jared Butler, Davion Mitchell and MaCio Teague, left for the pros. Mitchell and Teague had been transfers who had to redshirt for a season before debuting with the Bears during the 2019-20 season, when they set a Big 12 record with 23 consecutive wins before the NCAA Tournament was canceled because of the pandemic. Akinjo is the Big 12 assists leader and was Baylor's top scorer before falling hard on his tailbone at the end of game Jan. 11 and missing two of the last four games. "Davion and MaCio, those guys got to be on scout team for a whole year, learn the other team's offenses and defenses, see them up close and in person. And then build relationships with the team," Drew said. "Everybody now, it's kind of like trying to get married in the first month. Normally, you date a couple years."



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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

LeBron, Durant All-Star captains



LeBron James will return to Cleveland as an All-Star Game captain, and Ja Morant and Andrew Wiggins are headed there as first-time selections. MVP Nikola Jokic of the Nuggets and Warriors superstar Stephen Curry joined them Thursday as the other players voted as starters from the Western Conference. The starters from the East were the Nets' Kevin Durant, Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo and 76ers' Joel Embiid in the frontcourt, along with the Hawks' Trae Young and Bulls' DeMar DeRozan. James, above, and Durant, as the leading vote-getters in each conference, will be the captains who draft players for the rosters for the Feb. 20 game in Cleveland. James has been a captain every year since the league went away from the East vs. West format. Durant's availability for the game is in doubt because of a sprained knee ligament. Fan ballots accounted for 50% of the vote, with a media panel and current players each accounting for 25%. Reserves for the game, voted on by the head coaches in each conference, will be announced on Feb. 3.

Big Ben: Time to 'hang up my cleats'



No more comebacks for Ben Roethlisberger. The longtime Steelers quarterback retired Thursday, saying it was "time to clean out my locker, hang up my cleats" after 18 seasons, two Super Bowl wins, countless team records and a spot in the Hall of Fame all but secure. The much-anticipated decision came less than two weeks after the Steelers' lopsided loss to the Chiefs in the first round of the postseason, the 12th time in Roethlisberger's career the Steelers reached the playoffs. The Steelers never endured a losing season during Roethlisberger's tenure and captured Super Bowls 40 and 43. Roethlisberger, 39, was twice accused of sexual assault. A civil case filed against him stemming from an incident at Lake Tahoe in 2009 was settled out of court. A woman in Georgia alleged he assaulted her at a bar in March 2010 but prosecutors didn't charge him. The NFL suspended him for the start of the 2010 season. He returned to lead the Steelers to the Super Bowl, a loss to the Packers. Roethlisberger's 53 game-winning drives are tied for second in NFL history behind Peyton Manning's 54.

After cleared by NHL, Kane to Oilers



The NHL cleared Evander Kane after an investigation into his cross-border travel during the holiday break, paving the way for him to join the Oilers, according to reports Thursday. Kane has agreed to terms with the Oilers on a contract for the remainder of the season that comes with a \$750,000 salary and \$625,000 in bonuses. He's expected to provide a boost for the Oilers, who recently lost seven games in a row to fall out of playoff position in the Western Conference. But this was only possible after the NHL decided not to levy more discipline on the 30-year-old winger. A law firm hired to conduct the investigation concluded there wasn't sufficient evidence to conclude Kane "knowingly made misrepresentations regarding his COVID-19 status or test results in connection with his international travel." Earlier this month, the Sharks terminated the remainder of his seven-year, \$49 million contract for violating virus protocol while in the American Hockey League. The NHL in October suspended Kane 21 games for submitting a fake vaccine card. —Associated Press



Quarterback Patrick Mahomes leads the Chiefs into their fourth straight AFC championship game. REED HOFFMANN/AP

NFL PLAYOFFS

Definition of dynasty?

Only 1 ring so far, Chiefs' run of success still 'special'

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Chiefs have won six straight AFC West titles, something never before accomplished, and will be hosting a record fourth consecutive conference championship game when the Bengals visit Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday.

They've been to the last two Super Bowls. Won a championship. Set so many league-best marks behind the unparalleled play of Patrick Mahomes and the brilliant coaching of Andy Reid that the rest of the NFL has ample reason to be jealous.

So, are the Chiefs following in the footsteps of the Patriots as the next football dynasty?

Or, are they just the latest "it" team that everyone wants to watch?

"It was 2008 or 2009 that (Chiefs chairman) Clark Hunt made the statement that we're going to strive to create an organization that consistently competes for championships," team president Mark Donovan recalled this week, "and here we are, hosting our fourth straight championship. Never been done before. It's special times to be a Chiefs fan, and special times to be part of this organization."

Perhaps that's because they don't have to look far into their history to remember what it's like to live at the bottom.

When Hunt made that bold proclamation, the Chiefs were a floundering franchise that hadn't won a playoff

game in more than two decades. And they hadn't even bottomed out, either. That came a few years later when, during a season in which a player killed himself in the practice facility parking lot, the Chiefs were the two-win laughingstock of the league.

They soon began the search for a new coach, and in a case of coincidence or fate, the Eagles had just moved on from their own. Hunt quickly flew to Philadelphia and met with Reid, refused to let him out of the room without agreeing to come to Kansas City, and in one weekend changed the course of the organization.

The Chiefs went from two wins to 11 the very next year, one of the great turnarounds in NFL history, and haven't had another losing season. The last seven have ended in the playoffs, the last four in the conference championship game and, with a win over the Bengals on Sunday, the last three would be in the Super Bowl.

But is nearly a decade of relative dominance enough to call the Chiefs a dynasty?

Dynasties are purely subjective. The textbook definition, at least from Merriam-Webster, is that they involve "a sports franchise which has a prolonged run of successful seasons," though in truth that doesn't define anything.

How successful? And for how long? Here are some facts: The Chiefs have won six straight home playoff games, one of the 10 longest streaks since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. They're among seven franchises to reach four straight conference title games, and the first to host all of them. A third straight Super Bowl appearance would match

the Dolphins of Don Shula in the early 1970s and the Patriots of Bill Belichick from 2016-18 as the only franchises to make that many in a row with at least one victory.

(Yes, the Bills went to four straight Super Bowls. Without winning one, are they worthy of being called a dynasty?)

Of course, there are some NFL dynasties that are difficult to debate.

The Packers that won six championships under Curly Lambeau from 1929-44. The Bears of George Halas won four titles in seven seasons during the '40s; Paul Brown's teams in Cleveland seemingly never lost in the '50s. The Vince Lombardi-led Packers of the '60s won the first two Super Bowls. The '70s Steelers of the famed Steel Curtain defense, the 49ers in the '80s and the Cowboys of the '90s paved the way for the Patriots of the last two decades.

Besides longevity and success, most have something else in common: historic QB-coach combinations. Lombardi had Bart Starr. Chuck Noll had Terry Bradshaw in Pittsburgh. Bill Walsh coached Joe Montana and George Seifert had Steve Young in San Francisco. Jimmy Johnson and Barry Switzer relied on Troy Aikman in Dallas. Belichick had Tom Brady.

Kind of like Reid and Mahomes in Kansas City.

Whether the Chiefs are already a dynasty or one in the making is up for debate. But with Reid firmly ensconced in the coach's office, Mahomes signed for most of the next decade and a plethora of playmakers under long-term contracts — guys such as Travis Kelce, Tyreek Hill and Chris Jones — the Chiefs don't appear to be going away soon.

WINTER OLYMPICS PREVIEW

Curling

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

John Shuster won't be catching anyone by surprise at these Olympics.

The five-time Olympian is back to defend his curling gold medal in Beijing, and the target on his back will be almost as big as the one on the ice. Four years after surviving five straight elimination matches to win it all in Pyeongchang the Americans are among the favorites to medal again.

"I definitely feel less pressure," Shuster said after his victory in the U.S. curling trials. "The success last time for me, winning an Olympic gold, is the top of the mountain. And no matter how you finish in the other Olympics, it doesn't matter."

"I think I feel less pressure," he said, "but I think I have supreme confidence."

Shuster won bronze in 2006 as the lead for **Pete Fenson's** team — the first-ever U.S. Olympic curling medal. Then he left to form his own rink, earning a trip to Vancouver but performing so badly that he benched himself.

After finishing 10th in 2010 — dead last — Shuster won the U.S. trials again four years later but managed just a ninth place in Sochi. When USA Curling put together a high performance camp of the country's top 10 players, Shuster didn't make the cut.

So the most decorated Olympian in American curling history scraped together a foursome — calling themselves "Team Rejects" — and not only beat the federation-backed squads in the U.S. trials but won gold in Korea.

With 2018 teammates **John Landsteiner** and **Matt Hamilton**, and Olympic rookie **Chris Plys**, Shuster is hoping to avoid the slow starts of previous Winter Games. Longtime curling powers Britain and Canada will be there if they stumble.



Skip John Shuster is aiming to lead the U.S. to its second straight gold medal in curling next month at the Beijing Winter Olympics. REBECCA S. GRATZ/AP

Baby bump

Tabitha Peterson is heading to her second straight Olympics — her first as the skip of the U.S. women's team. A Twin Cities native, Peterson threw third for **Nina Roth's** team in Pyeongchang. When Roth took maternity leave the following season, Peterson moved up to skip, the team captain who not only throws the last and most important stones but is also the final word on strategy throughout the match. "It definitely is different, just in terms of my role on the team," Peterson said. "I've had to kind of rethink the way I think the game, my role, my approach, my preparation. (And) what I do off the ice — there's more strategic learning." Roth is back at vice-skip, throwing third, with fellow 2018 holdover **Becca Hamilton** second. Olympic rookie **Tara Peterson**, Tabitha's sister, is the lead, throwing first. "It's been amazing, this group of girls," Tabitha Peterson said. "We're so happy to be going together, no matter what our roles are." The U.S. women have never won an Olympic curling medal. They went 4-5 in 2018 and failed to qualify for the playoffs.

Double duty

A handful of curlers will be among the busiest athletes at the Olympics. Plys will compete in the mixed doubles event with partner **Vicky Persinger** before turning his attention to the men's tournament — meaning he could be on the ice for 18 days in a row, sometimes two sessions per day. Others doing double duty are Britain's **Jennifer Dodds** and **Bruce Mouat**, Italy's **Amos Mosaner** and Sweden's **Oskar Eriksson**. (Norway's **Magnus Nedregotten** is an alternate for the men's competition; China and Canada were still filling out their teams.)

Back for more

It's not just Shuster's squad that is trying to repeat. All of the medal-winning teams from Pyeongchang are back for another try, with some minor shuffling in the lineups. In the men's field, Sochi bronze medalist and Pyeongchang runner-up **Niklas Edin** is back to complete his set of Olympic prizes. The Swiss team skipped by **Benoit Schwarz** that won bronze in 2018 is back but with a new third, **Sven Michel**. **Anna Hasselborg's** foursome will defend its Olympic championship in the women's division, and Japan's Team Fujisawa is back after winning bronze four years ago. South Korea's Team Kim, silver medalists at home in Pyeongchang, is back, with **Kim Cho-hi** stepping in as second. Canada's **Kaitlyn Lawes** and **John Morris** won mixed doubles gold in Korea — the only curling medal for powerhouse Canada in Korea — but the coed trials were canceled because of the pandemic, delaying the selection of a team for Beijing. Silver medalists **Jenny Perret** and **Martin Rios** of Switzerland and third-place finishers **Kristin Skaslien** and Nedregotten of Norway are also hoping to move up the podium.

